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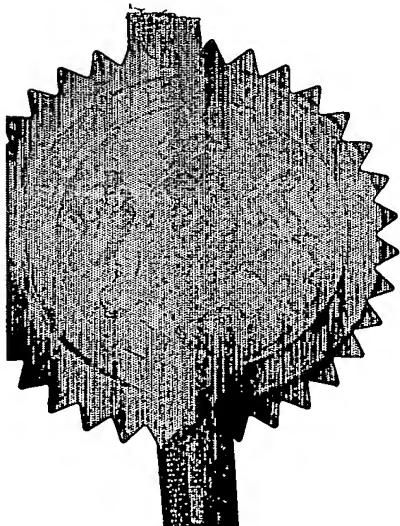
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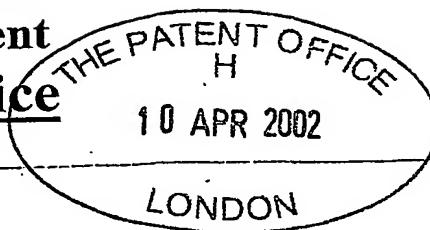
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Dated 25 April 2003

Andrew Jersey

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1/77

Request for grant of a patent

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ACC/DAB/P33031

2. Patent application number

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0208280.8

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11APR02 E710059-2 C69803
P01/7700 0.00-0208280.83. Full name, address and postcode of the or of
each applicant (underline all surnames)Glaxo Group Limited
Glaxo Wellcome House, Berkeley Avenue,
Greenford, Middlesex UB6 0NN, Great Britain

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

473587003
United KingdomIf the applicant is a corporate body, give the
country/state of its incorporation

4. Title of the invention

Novel Compounds

5. Name of your agent (if you have one)

Corporate Intellectual Property

"Address for service" in the United Kingdom
to which all correspondence should be sent
(including the postcode)

GlaxoSmithKline
Corporate Intellectual Property CN925.1
980 Great West Road
BRENTFORD
Middlesex TW8 9GS

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

7460982003

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and the date of filing of the or each of
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or each application number

Country	Priority application number (if you know it)	Date of filing (day / month / year)
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7. If this application is divided or otherwise
derived from an earlier UK application,
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the earlier application

Number of earlier application	Date of filing (day / month / year)
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8. Is a statement of inventorship and of right
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- a) any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or
- b) there is an inventor who is named as an applicant, or
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Patents Form 1/77

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Continuation sheets of this form

Description	37
Claim(s)	2
Abstract	1
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Priority Documents

Translations of priority documents

Statement of inventorship and right to grant of a patent (*Patents Form 7/77*)

Request for preliminary examination and search (*Patents Form 9/77*)

Request for substantive examination
(*Patents Form 10/77*)

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11.

We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application

Signature A Connell Date 10-Apr-02
A C Connell

12. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom

A C Connell 01279 644395

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Novel Compounds

The present invention relates to certain novel pyrimidone and pyridone compounds, processes for their preparation, intermediates useful in their preparation, pharmaceutical compositions containing them and their use in therapy, in particular in the treatment of atherosclerosis.

WO 95/00649 (SmithKline Beecham plc) describes the phospholipase A₂ enzyme Lipoprotein Associated Phospholipase A₂ (Lp-PLA₂), the sequence, isolation and purification thereof, isolated nucleic acids encoding the enzyme, and recombinant host cells transformed with DNA encoding the enzyme. Suggested therapeutic uses for inhibitors of the enzyme included atherosclerosis, diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, stroke, myocardial infarction, reperfusion injury and acute and chronic inflammation. A subsequent publication from the same group further describes this enzyme (Tew D *et al*, Arterioscler Thromb Vas Biol 1996;16:591-9) wherein it is referred to as LDL-PLA₂. A later patent application (WO 95/09921, Icos Corporation) and a related publication in Nature (Tjoelker *et al*, vol 374, 6 April 1995, 549) describe the enzyme PAE-AH which has essentially the same sequence as Lp-PLA₂ and suggest that it may have potential as a therapeutic protein for regulating pathological inflammatory events.

It has been shown that Lp-PLA₂ is responsible for the conversion of phosphatidylcholine to lysophosphatidylcholine, during the conversion of low density lipoprotein (LDL) to its oxidised form. The enzyme is known to hydrolyse the sn-2 ester of the oxidised phosphatidylcholine to give lysophosphatidylcholine and an oxidatively modified fatty acid. Both products of Lp-PLA₂ action are biologically active with lysophosphatidylcholine, in particular having several pro-atherogenic activities ascribed to it including monocyte chemotaxis and induction of endothelial dysfunction, both of which facilitate monocyte-derived macrophage accumulation within the artery wall. Inhibition of the Lp-PLA₂ enzyme would therefore be expected to stop the build up of these macrophage enriched lesions (by inhibition of the formation of lysophosphatidylcholine and oxidised free fatty acids) and so be useful in the treatment of atherosclerosis.

A recently published study (WOSCOPS – Packard *et al*, *N. Engl. J. Med.* 343 (2000) 1148-1155) has shown that the level of the enzyme Lp-PLA₂ is an independent risk factor in coronary artery disease.

The increased lysophosphatidylcholine content of oxidatively modified LDL is also thought to be responsible for the endothelial dysfunction observed in patients with atherosclerosis. Inhibitors of Lp-PLA₂ could therefore prove beneficial in the treatment of this phenomenon. An Lp-PLA₂ inhibitor could also find utility in other disease states that exhibit endothelial dysfunction including diabetes, hypertension, angina pectoris and after ischaemia and reperfusion.

In addition, Lp-PLA₂ inhibitors may also have a general application in any disorder that involves activated monocytes, macrophages or lymphocytes, as all of these cell types express Lp-PLA₂. Examples of such disorders include psoriasis.

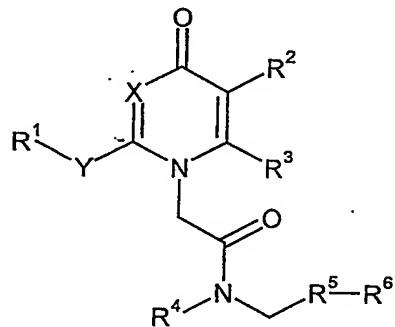
Furthermore, Lp-PLA₂ inhibitors may also have a general application in any disorder that involves lipid oxidation in conjunction with Lp-PLA₂ activity to produce the two injurious products,

lysophosphatidylcholine and oxidatively modified fatty acids. Such conditions include the aforementioned conditions atherosclerosis, diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, stroke, myocardial infarction, ischaemia, reperfusion injury and acute and chronic inflammation.

5 Patent applications WO 96/12963, WO 96/13484, WO 96/19451, WO 97/02242, WO 97/217675, WO 97/217676, WO 96/41098, and WO 97/41099 (SmithKline Beecham plc) disclose *inter alia* various series of 4-thionyl/sulfinyl/sulfonyl azetidinone compounds which are inhibitors of the enzyme Lp-PLA₂. These are irreversible, acylating inhibitors (Tew *et al*, Biochemistry, 37, 10087, 1998).

10 A further class of compounds has now been identified which are non-acylating inhibitors of the enzyme Lp-PLA₂. Thus, WO 99/24420, WO 00/10980, WO 00/66566, WO 00/66567, WO 00/68208 and PCT/EP01/11562 (unpublished at the priority date of the present application) (SmithKline Beecham plc) disclose classes of pyrimidone compounds. PCT/EP01/11610 (SmithKline Beecham plc), also unpublished at the priority date of the instant application, discloses a class of pyridone compounds. We 15 have now found that the amide nitrogen substituent on both the pyrimidone and pyridone ring scaffolds may be replaced, to give compounds having good activity as inhibitors of the enzyme Lp-PLA₂.

Accordingly, the present invention provides a compound of formula (I):



(I)

in which:

R¹ is an aryl group, optionally substituted by 1, 2, 3 or 4 substituents which may be the same or different selected from C(1-6)alkyl, C(1-6)alkoxy, C(1-6)alkylthio, arylC(1-6)alkoxy, hydroxy, halogen, CN, COR⁷, carboxy, COOR⁷, NR⁷COR⁸, CONR⁹R¹⁰, SO₂NR⁹R¹⁰, NR⁷SO₂R⁸, NR⁹R¹⁰, mono to perfluoro-C(1-4)alkyl, mono to perfluoro-C(1-4)alkoxyaryl, and arylC(1-4)alkyl;

R² is halogen, C(1-3)alkyl, C(1-3)alkoxy, hydroxyC(1-3)alkyl, C(1-3)alkylthio, C(1-3)alkylsulphanyl, aminoC(1-3)alkyl, mono- or di-C(1-3)alkylaminoC(1-3)alkyl,

C(1-3)alkylcarbonylaminoC(1-3)alkyl, C(1-3)alkoxyC(1-3)alkylcarbonylaminoC(1-3)alkyl,

C(1-3)alkylsulphonylaminoC(1-3)alkyl, C(1-3)alkylcarboxy, C(1-3)alkylcarboxyC(1-3)alkyl, and

R³ is hydrogen, halogen, C(1-3)alkyl, or hydroxyC(1-3)alkyl; or

R² and R³ together with the pyridone or pyrimidone ring carbon atoms to which they are attached form a fused 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic ring; or

R² and R³ together with the pyridone or pyrimidone ring carbon atoms to which they are attached form a fused benzo or heteroaryl ring optionally substituted by 1, 2, 3 or 4 substituents which may be the same or different selected from halogen, C(1-4)alkyl, cyano, C(1-3)alkoxyC(1-3)alkyl, C(1-4)alkoxy or C(1-4)alkylthio, or mono to perfluoro-C(1-4)alkyl;

R⁴ is (CH₂)_n substituted by a substituent selected from benzimidazole or a 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl, each of which may optionally be substituted by one or more R¹¹;

R⁵ is an aryl or a heteroaryl ring optionally substituted by 1, 2, 3 or 4 substituents which may be

5 the same or different selected from C(1-6)alkyl, C(1-6)alkoxy, C(1-6)alkylthio, arylC(1-6)alkoxy, hydroxy, halogen, CN, COR⁷, carboxy, COOR⁷, NR⁷COR⁸, CONR⁹R¹⁰, SO₂NR⁹R¹⁰, NR⁷SO₂R⁸, NR⁹R¹⁰, mono to perfluoro-C(1-4)alkyl and mono to perfluoro-C(1-4)alkoxy;

R⁶ is an aryl or a heteroaryl ring which is further optionally substituted by 1, 2, 3 or 4

substituents which may be the same or different selected from C(1-6)alkyl, C(1-6)alkoxy,

10 C(1-6)alkylthio, C(1-6)alkylsulfonyl, arylC(1-6)alkoxy, hydroxy, halogen, CN, COR⁷, carboxy, COOR⁷, CONR⁹R¹⁰, NR⁷COR⁸, SO₂NR⁹R¹⁰, NR⁷SO₂R⁸, NR⁹R¹⁰, mono to perfluoro-C(1-4)alkyl and mono to perfluoro-C(1-4)alkoxy, or C(5-10)alkyl;

R⁷ and R⁸ are independently hydrogen or C(1-12)alkyl, for instance C(1-4)alkyl (e.g. methyl or ethyl);

15 R⁹ and R¹⁰ which may be the same or different is each selected from hydrogen, or C(1-12)alkyl, or R⁹ and R¹⁰ together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a 5-to-7-membered ring optionally containing one or more further heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen and sulphur, and optionally substituted by one or two substituents selected from hydroxy, oxo, C(1-4)alkyl, C(1-4)alkylcarboxy, aryl, e.g. phenyl, or aralkyl, e.g. benzyl, for instance morpholine or piperazine;

20 R¹¹ is selected from the group consisting of halogen, CF₃, C(1-6)alkyl, C(1-6)alkoxy C(1-6)alkyl or benzyl optionally substituted by CF₃, C(1-6)alkyl, C(1-6)alkoxy or halogen;

X is CH or nitrogen;

Y is C(2-4)alkylene group (optionally substituted by 1, 2 or 3 substituents selected from methyl and ethyl), CH=CH, or (CH₂)_mS;

25 n is 1, 2, 3 or 4; and

m is 1 or 2.

In another aspect the invention provides a compound of formula (I) as defined above in which R¹ is an aryl group, optionally substituted by 1, 2, 3 or 4 substituents which may be the same or different selected from halogen, C(1-6)alkyl, trifluoromethyl or C(1-6)alkoxy.

Representative examples of R¹ when an aryl group include phenyl. Preferably, R¹ is phenyl optionally substituted by 1, 2, 3 or 4 halogen substituents, preferably, from 1 to 3 fluoro, more preferably, 2,3-difluoro or 4-fluoro.

35 In another aspect the present invention provides a compound of formula (I) as defined above in which, when X is carbon, R² and R³ together with the pyridone ring carbon atoms to which they are attached form a fused benzo or pyrido ring optionally substituted by 1, 2, 3 or 4 substituents which may be the same or different selected from halogen, C(1-4)alkyl, cyano, C(1-3)alkoxyC(1-3)alkyl, C(1-4)alkoxy or C(1-4)alkylthio, or mono to perfluoro-C(1-4)alkyl.

Representative examples of R² and R³ include when R² and R³, together with the pyridone ring carbon atoms to which they are attached, form an unsubstituted fused benzo or pyrido ring.

In another aspect the present invention provides a compound of formula (I) as defined above in which, when X is nitrogen, R² and R³ together with the pyrimidone ring carbon atoms to which they are attached form a fused 5-membered carbocyclic (cyclopentenyl) or benzo ring optionally substituted by 1, 2, 3 or 4 substituents which may be the same or different selected from halogen, C(1-4)alkyl, cyano, C(1-3)alkoxyC(1-3)alkyl, C(1-4)alkoxy or C(1-4)alkylthio, or mono to perfluoro-C(1-4)alkyl.

Representative examples of R² and R³ include when R² and R³, together with the pyrimidone ring carbon atoms to which they are attached, form an unsubstituted fused benzo or cyclopentenyl ring.

10 In another aspect the present invention provides a compound of formula (I) as defined above in which R⁴ is (CH₂)_n substituted by benzimidazolyl, imidazolyl, thiazolyl, pyrazolyl, tetrazolyl and pyridyl, each of which may be optionally further substituted by one or more R¹¹.

15 Representative examples of R⁴ include methyl substituted by 1-methylimidazol-2-yl, pyrid-2-yl, 1-methylimidazol-4-yl, 1-ethylimidazol-4-yl, 1-isopropylimidazol-4-yl and 1-(2-methoxyethyl)imidazol-4-yl.

20 Representative examples of R⁴ include ethyl substituted at the 2-position by 1-methylimidazol-4-yl, 2-methylimidazol-1-yl, benzimidazol-2-yl, 5-chlorobenzimidazol-2-yl, imidazol-2-yl, imidazol-1-yl, 1-methylimidazol-5-yl, thiazol-2-yl, pyrazol-1-yl, tetrazol-5-yl, pyrid-2-yl, imidazol-4-yl, 1-ethylimidazol-4-yl, 1-isopropylimidazol-4-yl and (2-methoxyethyl)imidazol-4-yl.

25 Representative examples of R⁴ include propyl substituted at the 3-position by imidazol-1-yl, 1-methylimidazol-2-yl, 2-methylimidazol-1-yl, 1-methylimidazol-4-yl, pyrid-2-yl and 1-methylimidazol-5-yl.

Preferably R⁴ is ethyl substituted at the 2-position by 1-methylimidazol-4-yl

30 In another aspect the present invention provides a compound of formula (I) as defined above in which R⁵ is phenyl or pyridyl.

Representative examples of R⁵ include phenyl.

35 In another aspect the present invention provides a compound of formula (I) as defined above in which R⁶ is phenyl substituted by mono to perfluoro-C(1-4)alkyl, halogen or C(1-6)alkyl.

Representative examples of R⁶ include phenyl substituted by trifluoromethyl at the 4-position.

40 Preferably, R⁵ and R⁶ together form a 4-(phenyl)phenyl or a 2-(phenyl)pyridinyl substituent in which the remote phenyl ring may be optionally substituted by trifluoromethyl, preferably at the 4-position.

Representative examples of R¹¹ include methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, chloro, and methoxyethyl.

45 In another aspect, the present invention provides a compound of formula (I) as defined above in which Y is a C(2-4)alkylene group or CH₂S.

Representative examples of Y when X is CH or nitrogen include CH_2S and $(\text{CH}_2)_2$.

It is to be understood that the invention covers all combinations of particular aspects of the invention as described hereinabove.

It will be appreciated that compounds of the present invention may comprise one or more chiral centres so that stereoisomers may be formed. The present invention covers all such stereoisomers, including individual diastereoisomers and enantiomers, and mixtures thereof.

It will be appreciated that in some instances, compounds of the present invention may include a basic function such as an amino group as a substituent. Such basic functions may be used to form acid addition salts, in particular pharmaceutically acceptable salts. Pharmaceutically acceptable salts include those described by Berge, Bighley, and Monkhouse, *J. Pharm. Sci.*, 1977, 66, 1-19. Such salts may be formed from inorganic and organic acids. Representative examples thereof include maleic, fumaric, benzoic, ascorbic, pamoic, succinic, bismethylenesalicylic, methanesulfonic, ethanesulfonic, acetic, propionic, tartaric, salicylic, citric, gluconic, aspartic, stearic, palmitic, itaconic, glycolic, p-aminobenzoic, glutamic, taurocholic acid, benzenesulfonic, p-toluenesulfonic, hydrochloric, hydrobromic, sulfuric, cyclohexylsulfamic, phosphoric and nitric acids.

It will be appreciated that in some instances, compounds of the present invention may include a carboxy group as a substituent. Such carboxy groups may be used to form salts, in particular pharmaceutically acceptable salts. Pharmaceutically acceptable salts include those described by Berge, Bighley, and Monkhouse, *J. Pharm. Sci.*, 1977, 66, 1-19. Preferred salts include alkali metal salts such as the sodium and potassium salts.

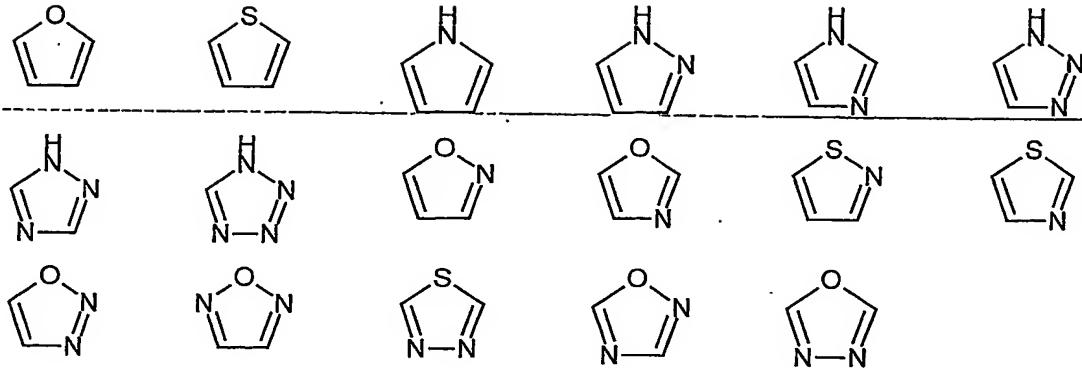
When used herein, the term "alkyl" and similar terms such as "alkoxy" includes all straight chain and branched isomers. Representative examples thereof include methyl, ethyl, *n*-propyl, *iso*-propyl, *n*-butyl, *sec*-butyl, *iso*-butyl, *t*-butyl, *n*-pentyl and *n*-hexyl.

When used herein, the term "aryl" refers to, unless otherwise defined, a mono- or bicyclic aromatic ring system containing up to 10 carbon atoms in the ring system, for instance phenyl or naphthyl.

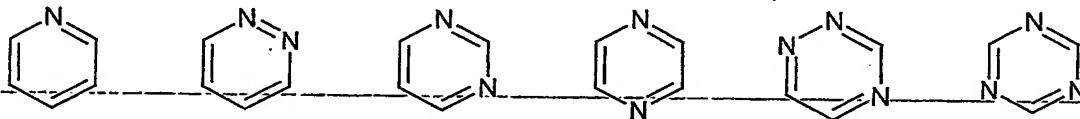
When used herein, the term "heteroaryl" refers to a mono- or bicyclic heteroaromatic ring system comprising up to four, preferably 1 or 2, heteroatoms each selected from oxygen, nitrogen and sulphur. Each ring may have from 4 to 7, preferably 5 or 6, ring atoms. A bicyclic heteroaromatic ring system may include a carbocyclic ring.

When used herein, the terms "halogen" and "halo" include fluorine, chlorine, bromine and iodine and fluoro, chloro, bromo and iodo, respectively.

When used herein the term "5-membered heteroaryl" means a heteroaryl selected from the following:



The term "6- membered heteroaryl" means a heteroaryl selected from the following:



5 Since the compounds of the present invention, in particular compounds of formula (I), are intended for use in pharmaceutical compositions, it will be understood that they are each provided in substantially pure form, for example at least 50% pure, more suitably at least 75% pure and preferably at least 95% pure (% are on a wt/wt basis). Impure preparations of the compounds of formula (I) may be used for preparing the more pure forms used in the pharmaceutical compositions. Although the purity of
10 intermediate compounds of the present invention is less critical, it will be readily understood that the substantially pure form is preferred as for the compounds of formula (I). Preferably, whenever possible, the compounds of the present invention are obtained in crystalline form.

When some of the compounds of this invention are allowed to crystallise or are re-crystallised from
15 organic solvents, solvent of crystallisation may be present in the crystalline product. This invention includes within its scope such solvates. Similarly, some of the compounds of this invention may be crystallised or re-crystallised from solvents containing water. In such cases water of hydration may be formed. This invention includes within its scope stoichiometric hydrates as well as compounds containing variable amounts of water that may be produced by processes such as lyophilisation. In
20 addition, different crystallisation conditions may lead to the formation of different polymorphic forms of crystalline products. This invention includes within its scope all polymorphic forms of the compounds of formula (I).

Compounds of the present invention are inhibitors of the enzyme lipoprotein associated phospholipase
25 A₂ (Lp-PLA₂) and as such are expected to be of use in therapy, in particular in the treatment of atherosclerosis. In a further aspect therefore the present invention provides a compound of formula (I) for use in therapy.

The compounds of formula (I) are inhibitors of lysophosphatidylcholine production by Lp-PLA₂ and
30 may therefore also have a general application in any disorder that involves endothelial dysfunction, for example atherosclerosis, diabetes, hypertension, angina pectoris and after ischaemia and reperfusion. In

addition, compounds of formula (I) may have a general application in any disorder that involves lipid oxidation in conjunction with enzyme activity, for example in addition to conditions such as atherosclerosis and diabetes, other conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis, stroke, inflammatory conditions of the brain such as Alzheimer's Disease, myocardial infarction, ischaemia, reperfusion injury, 5 sepsis, and acute and chronic inflammation.

Further applications include any disorder that involves activated monocytes, macrophages or lymphocytes, as all of these cell types express Lp-PLA₂. Examples of such disorders include psoriasis.

10 Accordingly, in a further aspect, the present invention provides for a method of treating a disease state associated with activity of the enzyme Lp-PLA₂ which method involves treating a patient in need thereof with a therapeutically effective amount of an inhibitor of the enzyme. The disease state may be associated with the increased involvement of monocytes, macrophages or lymphocytes; with the formation of lysophosphatidylcholine and oxidised free fatty acids; with lipid oxidation in conjunction 15 with Lp-PLA₂ activity; or with endothelial dysfunction.

Compounds of the present invention may also be of use in treating the above mentioned disease states in combination with an anti-hyperlipidaemic, anti-atherosclerotic, anti-diabetic, anti-anginal, anti-inflammatory, or anti-hypertension agent or an agent for lowering Lp(a). Examples of the above include 20 cholesterol synthesis inhibitors such as statins, anti-oxidants such as probucol, insulin sensitisers, calcium channel antagonists, and anti-inflammatory drugs such as NSAIDs. Examples of agents for lowering Lp(a) include the aminophosphonates described in WO 97/02037, WO 98/28310, WO 98/28311 and WO 98/28312 (Symphar SA and SmithKline Beecham).

25 A preferred combination therapy will be the use of a compound of the present invention and a statin. The statins are a well known class of cholesterol lowering agents and include atorvastatin, simvastatin, pravastatin, cerivastatin, fluvastatin, lovastatin and rosuvastatin (also referred to as S-4522 or ZD 4522, Astra Zeneca). The two agents may be administered at substantially the same time or at different times, according to the discretion of the physician.

30 A further preferred combination therapy will be the use of a compound of the present invention and an anti-diabetic agent or an insulin sensitisier, as coronary heart disease is a major cause of death for diabetics. Within this class, preferred compounds for use with a compound of the present invention include the PPARgamma activators, for instance GI262570 (GlaxoSmithKline) and the glitazone class of 35 compounds such as rosiglitazone (Avandia, GlaxoSmithKline), troglitazone and pioglitazone.

In therapeutic use, the compounds of the present invention are usually administered in a standard pharmaceutical composition. The present invention therefore provides, in a further aspect, a pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I) and a pharmaceutically acceptable 40 carrier.

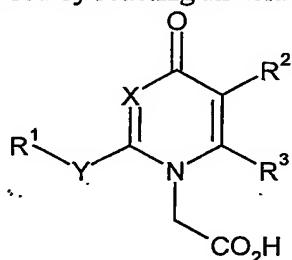
Suitable pharmaceutical compositions include those which are adapted for oral or parenteral administration or as a suppository.

Suitable pharmaceutical compositions include those which are adapted for oral or parenteral administration or as a suppository. Compounds of formula (I) which are active when given orally can be formulated as liquids, for example syrups, suspensions or emulsions, tablets, capsules and lozenges. A liquid formulation will generally consist of a suspension or solution of the compound or

5 pharmaceutically acceptable salt in a suitable liquid carrier(s) for example, ethanol, glycerine, non-aqueous solvent, for example polyethylene glycol, oils, or water with a suspending agent, preservative, flavouring or colouring agent. A composition in the form of a tablet can be prepared using any suitable pharmaceutical carrier(s) routinely used for preparing solid formulations. Examples of such carriers include magnesium stearate, starch, lactose, sucrose and cellulose. A composition in the form of a
 10 capsule can be prepared using routine encapsulation procedures. For example, pellets containing the active ingredient can be prepared using standard carriers and then filled into a hard gelatin capsule; alternatively, a dispersion or suspension can be prepared using any suitable pharmaceutical carrier(s), for example aqueous gums, celluloses, silicates or oils and the dispersion or suspension then filled into a soft gelatin capsule. Typical parenteral compositions consist of a solution or suspension of the compound of
 15 formula (I) in a sterile aqueous carrier or parenterally acceptable oil, for example polyethylene glycol, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, lecithin, arachis oil or sesame oil. Alternatively, the solution can be lyophilised and then reconstituted with a suitable solvent just prior to administration. A typical suppository formulation comprises a compound of formula (I) which is active when administered in this way, with a binding and/or lubricating agent such as polymeric glycols, gelatins or cocoa butter or other low melting
 20 vegetable or synthetic waxes or fats.

Preferably the composition is in unit dose form such as a tablet or capsule. Each dosage unit for oral administration contains preferably from 1 to 500 mg (and for parenteral administration contains preferably from 0.1 to 25 mg) of a compound of the formula (I). The daily dosage regimen for an adult patient may be, for example, an oral dose of between 1 mg and 1000 mg, preferably between 1 mg and
 25 500 mg, or an intravenous, subcutaneous, or intramuscular dose of between 0.1 mg and 100 mg, preferably between 0.1 mg and 25 mg, of the compound of the formula (I), the compound being administered 1 to 4 times per day. Suitably the compounds will be administered for a period of continuous therapy, for example for a week or more.

30 A compound of formula (I) may be prepared by reacting an acid compound of formula (II):



(II)

in which X, Y, R¹, R² and R³ are as hereinbefore defined,
 35 with an amine compound of formula (III):



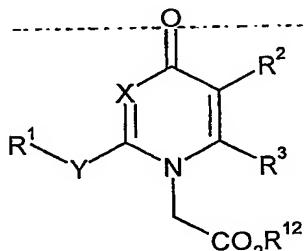
(III)

in which R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ are as hereinbefore defined; under amide forming conditions.

Suitable amide forming conditions are well known in the art and include treating the acid of formula (II) with the amine of formula (III) in the presence of a coupling agent such as 1-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethylcarbodiimide (DEC) and 1-hydroxybenzotriazole (HOBT), or O-(7-azabenzotriazol-1-yl)-N,N,N',N'-tetramethyluronium hexafluorophosphate (HATU) and di-isopropylethylamine, in an aprotic solvent such as dichloromethane or dimethylformamide.

It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that amines of formula (III) are either known compounds or may be prepared by literature methods such as reductive amination between suitable carbonyl and 10 amine precursors, employing an appropriate reducing agent such as sodium triacetoxyborohydride or sodium borohydride. Such methods are described in "Comprehensive Organic Transformations: a guide to functional group preparations" by Richard Larock (VCH, 1989), incorporated herein by reference.

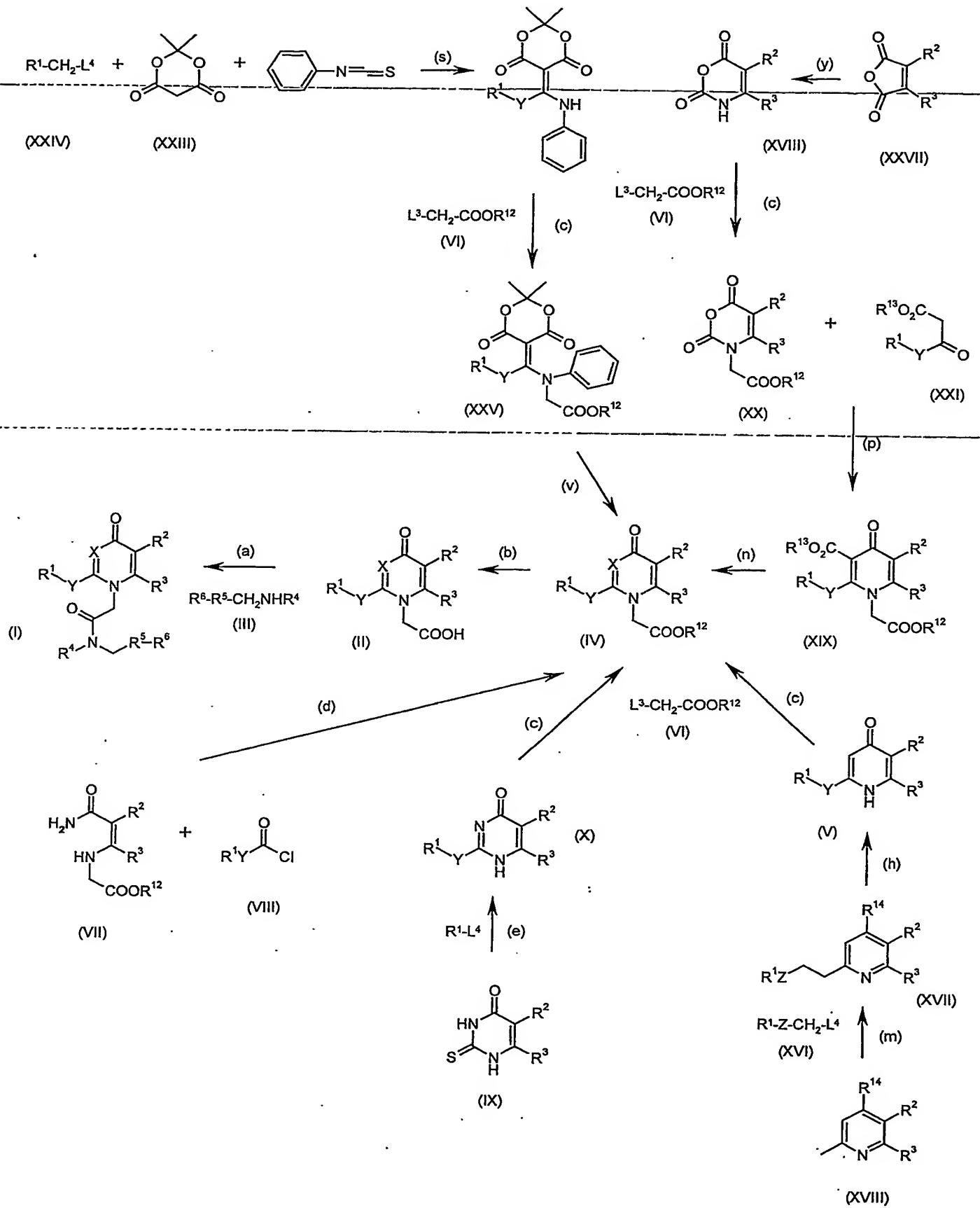
A compound of formula (II) may be readily prepared from a corresponding ester of formula (IV):



(IV)

in which X, Y, R¹, R² and R³ are as hereinbefore defined, and R¹² is benzyl or C(1-6)alkyl, for example ethyl or t-butyl, by treating with a de-esterifying agent, for instance, when R¹² is t-butyl, trifluoroacetic acid or when R¹² is ethyl or benzyl, sodium hydroxide in dioxan.

The overall synthesis of compounds of formula (I) is illustrated in the following scheme wherein R¹ to R¹² are as hereinbefore defined:



Referring to the scheme when X is CH, the ester (IV) may be prepared by N-1 alkylation of (V) using (VI), in which L³ is a leaving group (e.g. Br) and R¹² is as hereinbefore defined e.g. (VI) is t-butyl bromoacetate or ethyl bromoacetate, in the presence of a base e.g. BuLi in THF, sodium hydride in N-methyl pyrrolidinone (NMP), or a secondary or tertiary amine such as di-isopropylethylamine, in an inert solvent such as dichloromethane (step c).

Alternatively, when X is CH, Y is CH₂S, and R² and R³, together with the pyridone ring carbon atoms to which they are attached, form a fused benzo ring, intermediate (IV) may be synthesised from known starting materials by steps (s), (c) and (v) in which:

- (s) treatment of Meldrum's acid (XXIII) with sodium hydride at low temperature, followed by reaction with phenylisothiocyanate and subsequent treatment with R¹CH₂-L⁴, where L⁴ is a leaving group;
- (c) as hereinbefore discussed;
- (v) as hereinbefore discussed.

15

When X is CH and Y is alkylene, it is preferable to use steps-(m),-(h)-and-(e)-(intermediates-(X-VII), (XVII) and (V)) or steps (n) and (p) (intermediates (XIX), (XX), (XXI)) in which:

- (m) chain extension of a 2-alkyl pyridine, e.g. where Y = ZCH₂CH₂ by treatment of a 2-methylpyridine (XVII) with R¹-Z-CH₂-L⁴ (XVI) in which L⁴ is a leaving group and a strong base, such as BuLi, in

20

- THF.
- (h) transformation of a 4-substituted pyridine into a 4-pyridone e.g. by treatment of (XVII) R¹⁴ = Cl with aq HCl and dioxan, or deprotection of R¹⁴ = Oallyl, e.g. using (Ph₃P)₃RhCl when in aq. ethanol.
- (c) as hereinbefore described.

25

In the alternative route, the 3-ester group is removed from intermediate (XIX) R¹³ = C(1-6)alkyl by heating in diphenyl ether where R¹³ = tBu (step n); Intermediate (XIX) is formed from the 2,6-dioxo-1,3-oxazine (XX) and ester (XXI) by treatment with a base such as NaH in DMF or 1,8-diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene in dichloromethane (step p).

30

Synthesis of (XX) from known starting materials may be achieved via steps (y) and (c) in which:

- (y) treatment of (XXVII) with azidotrimethylsilane in tetrahydrofuran or dichloromethane;
- (c) as hereinbefore described.

35

When X is nitrogen and Y is CH₂S it is preferable to use steps (e) and (c) (intermediates (IX), (X)) in which:

- (e) thioether forming reaction. Treatment of (IX) with R¹-L⁴ in the presence of a base such as sodium ethoxide or potassium carbonate, preferably in a solvent such as ethanol, dimethyl formamide, or acetone, or a secondary or tertiary amine base such as di-isopropylethylamine, in a solvent such as dichloromethane.

40

- (c) as hereinbefore described.

When X is nitrogen and Y is (CH₂)₂ it is preferable to react intermediate (VII) with intermediate (VIII) (step (d)) under standard pyrimidone ring forming conditions, in a solvent such as benzene.

It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that all other starting materials and intermediates are either known compounds or may be prepared by literature methods, such as those described in "Comprehensive Organic Transformations: a guide to functional group preparations" by Richard Larock (VCH, 1989), incorporated herein by reference.

5

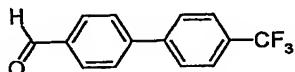
As will be appreciated by those skilled in the art it may be necessary or desirable at any stage in the synthesis of compounds of formula (I) to protect one or more sensitive groups in the molecule so as to prevent undesirable side reactions. The protecting groups used in the preparation of compounds of formula (I) may be used in conventional manner. See for example, those described in 'Protective Groups in Organic Synthesis' by Theodora W Green and Peter G M Wuts, second edition, (John Wiley and Sons, 10 1991), incorporated herein by reference, which also describes methods for the removal of such groups.

The present invention will now be illustrated by the following examples.

Examples

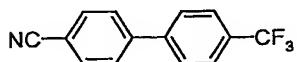
The structure and purity of the intermediates and examples was confirmed by $^1\text{H-NMR}$ and (in nearly all cases) mass spectroscopy, even where not explicitly indicated below

5 **Intermediate A1 4-(4-Trifluoromethylphenyl)benzaldehyde**



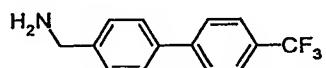
A 3 L 3-neck flask fitted with top stirrer, condenser and argon inlet/outlet was charged with 4-trifluoromethylbenzene boronic acid (90.0 g, 0.474 mol), 4-bromobenzaldehyde (83.29 g, 0.450 mol) and 1,2-dimethoxyethane (1.3 L), followed by 2M aqueous sodium carbonate (474 mL) and palladium acetate (5.32 g, 0.0237 mol). The stirring mixture was heated to reflux for 4 h under argon, then allowed to cool to room temperature over 16 h. The reaction mixture was filtered through hyflo. The filtrate was diluted with saturated brine and extracted 3x with ethyl acetate. The combined extracts were dried over magnesium sulfate and filtered through hyflo, giving a clear orange filtrate which was evaporated to a solid (ca. 120g, crude). Flash chromatography (silica, 10-50% dichloromethane in pet. ether, 10% steps) gave a white solid which dissolved in hexane (500mL) on boiling. Crystallisation, finally in ice, gave the title compound as a solid which was filtered off, washed with ice cold hexane and dried, (86.33g, 77%).
 $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ 7.77-8.03 (8H, m), 10.09 (1H, s).

Intermediate A2 — 4-(4-Trifluoromethylphenyl)benzonitrile



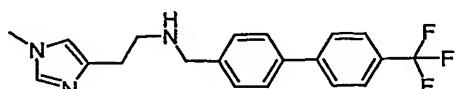
20 Prepared by the method of intermediate A1 using 4-trifluoromethylbenzeneboronic acid and 4-bromobenzonitrile. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (DMSO) δ 7.99-7.94 (6H, m) 7.86 (2H, d); MS(APCI+) found ($M+1$)=248, $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_8\text{F}_3\text{N}$ requires 247.

Intermediate A3 — 4-(4-Trifluoromethylphenyl)benzylamine hydrochloride salt



25 To a solution of intermediate A2 (96.7g, 0.39 mol) in absolute ethanol (5l) and concentrated hydrochloric acid (200 ml) was added 10% palladium on charcoal (30.0 g, 54% H_2O paste). The mixture was stirred under 50psi hydrogen for 16h. Additional 10% palladium on charcoal (25.0g, 54% H_2O paste) was added and the mixture was stirred under 50psi hydrogen for a further 16h. The mixture was filtered through celite and the solvent evaporated to give the hydrochloride salt of the title compound as a cream solid (102.5g, 91%). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (DMSO) δ 8.61 (3H, s), 7.93 (2H, d), 7.83 (2H, d), 7.80 (2H, d), 7.65 (2H, d), 4.08 (2H, s); MS(APCI+) found ($M-\text{NH}_2$)=235, $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{12}\text{F}_3\text{N}$ requires 251.

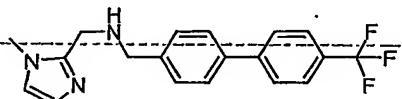
Intermediate A4 — N (2-(1-Methylimidazol-4-yl)ethyl)-4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethylamine



To a solution of 2-(1-methylimidazol-4-yl)ethylamine dihydrochloride (1.59g) and diisopropylethylamine (2.45ml) in dry dimethylformamide (10ml) was added intermediate A1 (1.67g) in dry THF (80ml) followed by dried 4Å molecular sieves (12g). The mixture was stirred slowly for 0.5h and stood for 16h at room temperature. The solution was filtered and evaporated under reduced pressure to give a yellow

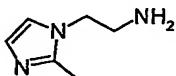
5 oil that was dissolved in ethanol (50ml) and sodium borohydride (0.253g) was added portionwise under nitrogen. Vigorous gas evolution was observed. After 4.5h, the mixture was evaporated under reduced pressure, the residue treated with water, basified with 2M sodium hydroxide and extracted with dichloromethane. The extracts were washed with dilute brine, dried over sodium sulphate and 10 evaporated under reduced pressure to a white solid. This solid was chromatographed on silica gel using 5-15% 2M ammonia in methanol:ethyl acetate to give the desired product (1.32g). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ 2.79 (2H, t), 2.97 (2H, t), 3.62 (3H, s), 3.88 (2H, s), 6.66 (1H, s), 7.34 (1H, s), 7.43 (2H, d), 7.55 (2H, d), 7.68 (4H, br.s); LC/MS (ESI+) found ($M+1$) 360; $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{20}\text{F}_3\text{N}_3$ requires 359. LC/MS purity = 100%.

Intermediate A5 — *N*(1-Methylimidazol-2-yl)methyl)-4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethylamine



15 A mixture of 1-methylimidazol-2-ylcarboxaldehyde (0.5g), triethylamine (0.633ml), intermediate A3 (1.3g) and dried 4Å molecular sieves (12g) in dry dichloromethane (50ml) was stirred at room temperature under nitrogen for 4h. The solution was filtered and evaporated under reduced pressure to give a pink solid that was dissolved in ethanol (100ml) and sodium borohydride (0.258g) was added portionwise under nitrogen. Vigorous gas evolution was observed. The resulting mixture was stirred at 20 room temperature overnight, the mixture was evaporated under reduced pressure, the residue treated with water and extracted with dichloromethane. The extracts were washed with brine, dried over sodium sulphate and evaporated under reduced pressure to a white solid. This solid was chromatographed on silica gel using ethyl acetate:cyclohexane, ethyl acetate, dichloromethane and methanol:dichloromethane as a gradient elution. This gave the desired product (1.09g). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ 3.66 (3H, s), 3.88 (2H, s), 3.90 (2H, s), 6.84 (1H, d), 6.95 (1H, d), 7.45 (2H, d), 7.57 (2H, d), 7.68 (4H, br.s); LC/MS (ESI+) found ($M+1$) 346; $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{18}\text{F}_3\text{N}_3$ requires 345.

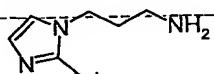
Intermediate A6 - 2-(2-Methylimidazol-1-yl)ethylamine hydrobromide



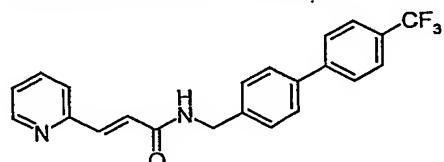
30 To finely ground sodium hydroxide (5.76g) in dry acetonitrile (20ml) was added 2-methylimidazole and the mixture stirred at room temperature (small exotherm observed). Tetrabutylammonium hydrogen sulphate (0.54g) and 2-chloroethylamine hydrochloride (4.99g) were added to the brown mixture. Further acetonitrile (20ml) was added and the mixture refluxed under nitrogen for 16h after which time a large amount of solid had precipitated. The mixture was cooled and the solid filtered off and washed with acetonitrile. The combined acetonitrile layers were evaporated under reduced pressure to an oil 35 which was dissolved in ethanol (40ml) and 48% aq hydrobromic acid (5ml) added with stirring at 4°C. A white solid crystallised which was filtered, washed well with ethanol and dried. This gave the desired product (3.09g). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (DMSO) δ 2.31 (3H, s), 3.13 (2H, t), 4.08 (2H, t), 6.81 (1H, br.s), 7.12 (1H, br.s).

Similarly prepared using 3-chloroethylamine hydrochloride was:

Intermediate A7 - 3-(2-Methylimidazol-1-yl)propylamine hydrobromide

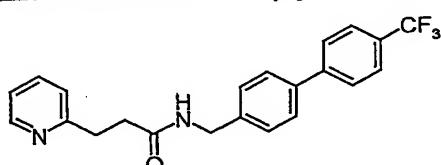


5 **Intermediate A8 – 3-(Pyrid-2-yl)-N-(4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethyl)prop-2-enoic acid amide**



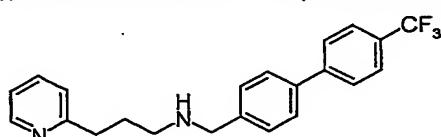
To a mixture of intermediate A3 (0.193g) and 3-(pyrid-2-yl)prop-2-enoic acid (0.10g) in dry dimethylformamide (2.5ml) was added diisopropylethylamine (0.467ml) and O-(7-azabenzotriazol-1-yl)-N,N,N',N'-tetramethyluronium hexafluorophosphate (HATU) (0.357g) with stirring at room temperature. The mixture was stirred for a further 2.5h and left overnight. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue partitioned between dichloromethane and water. The aqueous layer was extracted with further dichloromethane and the combined organic layers washed with 1M sodium hydroxide, water, brine and dried over sodium sulphate. Evaporation under reduced pressure gave a solid that was chromatographed on silica gel using cyclohexane:ethyl acetate to methanol:ethyl acetate as eluents. This gave the desired product (0.255g). ¹H-NMR (DMSO) δ 4.48 (2H, d), 7.16 (1H, d), 7.34-7.40 (1H, m), 7.44 (2H, d), 7.52 (1H, d), 7.60 (1H, d), 7.73 (2H, d), 7.77-7.93 (5H, m), 8.62 (1H, d), 8.88 (1H, t); LC/MS (ESI+) found (M+1) 383; C₂₂H₁₇F₃N₂O requires 382. LC/MS purity = 100%.

Intermediate A9 - 3-(Pyrid-2-yl)-N-(4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethyl)propionamide



20 A solution of intermediate A8 (0.251g) in ethanol (20ml) containing 10% palladium on charcoal (0.03g) was hydrogenated at room temperature and atmospheric pressure. After 5h, the solution was filtered and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was chromatographed on silica gel using cyclohexane:ethyl acetate to methanol:ethyl acetate as eluents. This gave the desired product (0.225g). ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ 2.76 (2H, t), 3.17 (2H, t), 4.47 (2H, d), 6.80 (1H, br.m), 7.10-7.16 (1H, m), 7.22 (1H, d), 7.28 (2H, d), 7.52 (2H, d), 7.62 (1H, txd), 7.64-7.72 (4H, m), 8.46 (1H, d); LC/MS (ESI+) found (M+1) 385; C₂₂H₁₉F₃N₂O requires 384. LC/MS purity = 100%.

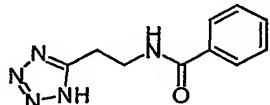
Intermediate A10 – N-(3-(Pyrid-2-yl)propyl)-4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethylaniline



To a solution of intermediate A9 (0.5g) in dry tetrahydrofuran (15ml) under nitrogen, at room temperature, was added dropwise, 1M borane.THF complex (6.5ml). The resulting solution was stirred at room temperature for 0.5h and then at reflux for 2h. After cooling, the mixture was partitioned between ethyl acetate and water. The aqueous layer was extracted with further ethyl acetate and the combined organics were washed with brine, dried over sodium sulphate and evaporated under reduced pressure. The oil so formed was dissolved in THF (5ml), 1M sodium hydroxide (1.5ml) added and the mixture heated to reflux for 48h. After cooling, the residue was partitioned between dichloromethane (x2) and water and the combined organic layers were washed with further water and dried over sodium sulphate. Evaporation under reduced pressure gave a solid that was chromatographed on silica gel using cyclohexane:ethyl acetate, ethyl acetate, to methanol:dichloromethane as eluents. This gave the desired product (0.413g).

¹H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.98 (2H, m), 2.73 (2H, t), 2.87 (2H, t), 3.85 (2H, s), 7.07-7.18 (2H, m), 7.43 (2H, d), 7.50-7.65 (3H, m), 7.68 (4H, m), 8.52 (1H, d); LC/MS (ESI+) found (M+1) 371; C₂₂H₂₁F₃N₂ requires 370.

Intermediate A11 – N-(2-(Tetrazol-5-yl)ethyl)benzamide

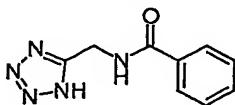


A mixture of N-(2-cyanoethyl)benzamide (6.97g), sodium azide (2.73g) and ammonium chloride (2.35g) was suspended in dry dimethylformamide (35ml) and the stirring mixture heated to 120°C (oil bath temperature 130°C) (Roczn. Chem. 1971, 45(6), 967-980). After 16h, the mixture was cooled and the solid residue triturated with 2M hydrochloric acid (80ml), filtered, washed well with water and dried.

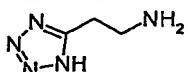
This gave the desired product (6.84g). ¹H-NMR (DMSO) δ 3.16 (2H, t), 3.63 (2H, q), 7.43-7.57 (3H, m), 7.43 (2H, d), 7.77-7.83 (2H, m), 8.65 (1H, br.t); LC/MS (ESI+) found (M+1) 218; C₁₀H₁₁N₅O requires 217. LC/MS purity = 100%.

Similarly prepared was:

Intermediate A12 – N-(Tetrazol-5-ylmethyl)benzamide

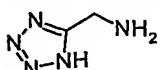
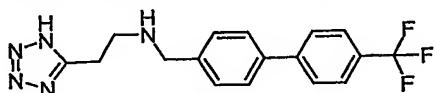


Intermediate A13 – 2-(Tetrazol-5-yl)ethylamine hydrochloride

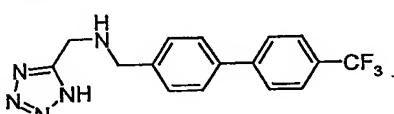


Intermediate A11 (6.0g) and concentrated aqueous hydrochloric acid (40ml) was refluxed for 24h. After cooling to 0°C for several hours, the precipitated solid was filtered off and the filtrate extracted with diethyl ether (x2). The aqueous layer was evaporated under reduced pressure to a white solid that was triturated with ethanol, filtered and dried. This gave the desired product (3.45g). ¹H-NMR (DMSO) δ 3.1-3.6 (br.).

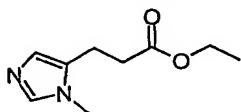
Similarly prepared was:

Intermediate A14 – Tetrazol-5-ylmethylamine hydrochloride**Intermediate A15 — N (2-(Tetrazol-5-yl)ethyl)-4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethylamine**

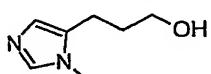
5 A mixture of intermediate A13 (1.0g) and diisopropylethylamine (1.22ml) in methanol (10ml) was stirred with warming, cooled and evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was stirred in dry dichloromethane (50ml) and further diisopropylethylamine (1.22ml) was added. The mixture was
10 evaporated under reduced pressure and dry dimethylformamide (10ml) followed by intermediate A1 (1.67g) and then tetrahydrofuran (80ml) followed by dried 4Å molecular sieves (10g). After 16h at room temperature, the mixture was filtered and evaporated under reduced pressure to give a yellow oil that was dissolved in ethanol (50ml) and sodium borohydride (0.253g) was added portionwise under nitrogen.
15 Vigorous gas evolution was observed. After 16h, the mixture was evaporated under reduced pressure, the residue treated with water and acidified to pH6-7 with 2M hydrochloric acid. The white solid so formed was filtered off, stirred with methanol, filtered again and dried to give the desired product (1.54g). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (DMSO) δ 3.05 (2H, t), 3.15 (2H, t), 4.16 (2H, s), 7.59 (2H, d), 7.77-7.86 (4H, m), 7.93 (2H, d); LC/MS (ESI+) found (M+1) 348; $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{16}\text{F}_3\text{N}_5$ requires 347. LC/MS purity = 100%.

Intermediate A16 – N(Tetrazol-5-ylmethyl)-4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethylamine

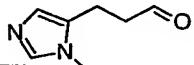
20 Prepared from intermediate A14 by the method of intermediate A15.

Intermediate A17 - 3-(3-Methylimidazol-4-yl)propionic acid ethyl ester

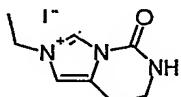
Prepared from 3-(3-Methylimidazol-4-yl)prop-2-enoic acid ethyl ester by the method of intermediate A9.

Intermediate A18 - 3-(3-Methylimidazol-4-yl)propan-1-ol

25 1M lithium aluminium hydride in diethyl ether (5.75ml) in dry tetrahydrofuran (10ml) was stirred in an ice bath under nitrogen and a solution of intermediate A17 (1.047g) in dry THF (10ml) added dropwise. The resultant mixture was allowed to warm to 21°C over 2h. The mixture was cooled in an ice bath and carefully treated (CARE effervescence) with water (0.43ml), 1M sodium hydroxide (0.29ml) and further water (0.66ml). The mixture was stirred for 0.33h and filtered and the solid washed with further THF. The combined filtrates were evaporated under reduced pressure to give the desired product (0.743g). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ 1.8-2.0 (2H, m), 2.65 (2H, t), 3.56 (3H, s), 3.73 (2H, t), 6.78 (1H, s), 7.37 (1H, s).

Intermediate A19 - 3-(3-Methylimidazol-4-yl)propionaldehyde

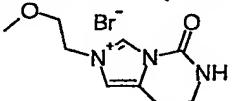
A solution of oxalyl chloride (0.553ml) in dry dichloromethane (15ml) was stirred under nitrogen and cooled to - 78°C. Anhydrous dimethyl sulphoxide (0.9ml) in dichloromethane (10ml) was added dropwise and the mixture was stirred for 0.25h. A solution of intermediate A18 (0.740g) in dry dichloromethane (10ml) was added dropwise and stirred for 0.5h. Triethylamine (3.68ml) was added to the mixture which was allowed to warm to 21°C over 3.5h. Water was added and the organic phase separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with further dichloromethane and the combined organic layers washed with brine and dried over sodium sulphate. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue chromatographed on silica gel using cyclohexane:ethyl acetate, ethyl acetate, to methanol:dichloromethane as eluents. This gave the desired product (0.455g). ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ 2.87 (4H, s), 3.58 (3H, s), 6.77 (1H, s), 7.43 (1H, d), 9.85 (1H, s).

Intermediate A20 - 2-Ethyl-5-oxo-5,6,7,8-tetrahydroimidazo[1,5-c]pyrimidin-2-ium iodide

15 A suspension of 7,8-dihydro-6H-imidazo[1,5-c]pyrimidin-5-one in dry acetonitrile (1.3g) was stirred at room temperature and ethyl iodide (2.27ml) added. The mixture was refluxed for 16h and after cooling, the solid was filtered off, washed with acetonitrile and dried. This gave the desired product (2.08g). ¹H-NMR (DMSO) δ 1.43 (3H, t), 3.02 (2H, t), 3.43-3.52 (2H, m), 4.24 (2H, q), 7.70 (1H, s), 9.03 (1H, br.s), 9.72 (1H, s).

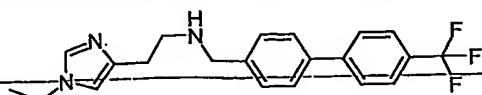
20 Similarly prepared was:

Int. A21		2-Isopropyl-5-oxo-5,6,7,8-tetrahydroimidazo[1,5-c]pyrimidin-2-ium iodide
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Intermediate A22 - 2-(2-Methoxyethyl)-5-oxo-5,6,7,8-tetrahydroimidazo[1,5-c]pyrimidin-2-ium bromide**bromide**

A suspension of 7,8-dihydro-6H-imidazo[1,5-c]pyrimidin-5-one in dry acetonitrile (1.3g) was stirred at room temperature and 2-methoxyethyl bromide (2.67ml) added. The mixture was refluxed for 16h and after cooling, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue triturated with diethyl ether. The oil remaining was dried under high vacuum to give the title compound. ¹H-NMR (DMSO) δ 3.03 (2H, t), 3.45-3.52 (2H, m), 3.73 (2H, t), 3.28 (3H, s), 4.41 (2H, t), 7.65 (1H, br.s), 9.06 (1H, br.s), 9.69 (1H, s).

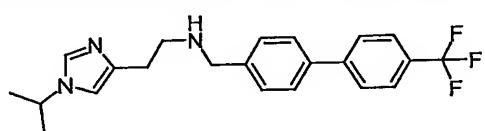
Intermediate A23 – (2-(1-Ethylimidazol-4-yl)ethyl) 4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethylamine



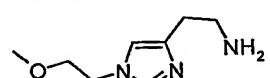
A mixture of intermediate A20 and 6M hydrochloric acid (20ml) was heated to reflux for 8h and cooled. After evaporation under reduced pressure, the residue was dissolved in water and extracted with dichloromethane. The aqueous layer was briefly evaporated under reduced pressure and passed down an IRA 400 (OH) column and evaporated under reduced pressure to give an oil (0.82g). This material was dissolved in dichloromethane (100ml) and intermediate A1 (1.147g) added followed by dry 4Å molecular sieves (12g). The mixture was swirled and then stood for 3h. The mixture was filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. This gave a solid that was dissolved in ethanol (25ml) and sodium borohydride (0.223g) added under nitrogen with stirring. Gentle gas evolution was observed. After 16h at room temperature, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue treated with water, basified with 2M sodium hydroxide and extracted with dichloromethane. The organic extracts were washed with dilute brine and dried over sodium sulphate. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue purified by chromatography on silica gel using 5-15% methanol:ethyl acetate as eluent to give the desired material (0.92g). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ 1.43 (3H, t), 2.79 (2H, t), 2.97 (2H, t), 3.87 (2H, q), 3.93 (2H, q), 6.70 (1H, s), 7.36-7.45 (3H, m), 7.55 (2H, d), 7.67 (4H, br.s); LC/MS (ESI+) found ($M+1$) 374; $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{16}\text{F}_3\text{N}_5$ requires 373. LC/MS purity = 100%.

Similarly prepared was:

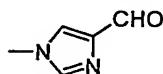
Intermediate A24 – (2-(1-Isopropylimidazol-4-yl)ethyl) 4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethylamine



Intermediate A25 – 2-(1-(2-methoxyethyl)- imidazol-4-yl)ethylamine



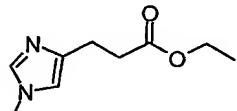
A mixture of intermediate A22 (2.18g), diisopropylethylamine (2.75ml) and *tert*.butyl alcohol was refluxed for 48h, cooled and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The residue was dissolved in dichloromethane and washed with water and dried over sodium sulphate. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to give an oil that was chromatographed on silica gel using 2-8% methanol:dichloromethane as eluents. This gave a clear oil which slowly crystallised (0.71g). This material was dissolved in dichloromethane (10ml) and trifluoroacetic acid (2ml) added with stirring. After 1h, the solvents were removed under reduced pressure. Diethyl ether was added and removed under reduced pressure. The residue was passed down an IRA 400 (OH) column eluting with water. The water was removed under reduced pressure and the residue taken up in ethanol and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The solid so formed was dried under vacuum to give the title compound (0.36g). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ 2.69 (2H, t), 2.99 (2H, br.t), 3.34 (3H, s), 3.62 (2H, q), 4.03 (2H, q), 6.75 (1H, s), 7.43 (1H, s).

Intermediate A26 – 1-Methylimidazole-4-carboxaldehyde

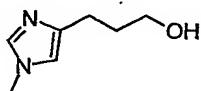
To a stirred suspension of imidazole-4-carboxaldehyde (1.0g) in dry tetrahydrofuran (60ml) under nitrogen at room temperature was added sodium hydride (60% suspension in oil, 0.437g) in small portions. The suspension was stirred until effervescence had ceased. A solution of methyl iodide (0.65ml) in THF (10ml) was added dropwise and the resulting reaction stirred at 21°C for 4h. Methanol was added and the mixture evaporated under reduced pressure to give a yellow oil which was chromatographed on silica gel using cyclohexane:ethyl acetate, ethyl acetate, to methanol:dichloromethane as eluents. This gave the desired product (0.807g). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ 3.78 (3H, s), 7.58 (1H, s), 7.62 (1H, s), 9.85 (1H, s).

Similarly prepared were:

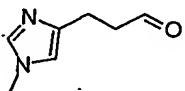
Intermediate A27		1-Ethylimidazole-4-carboxaldehyde
Intermediate A28		1-Isopropylimidazole-4-carboxaldehyde
Intermediate A29		1-(2-Methoxyethyl)- imidazole-4-carboxaldehyde

Intermediate A30 - 3-(1-Methylimidazol-4-yl)propionic acid ethyl ester

Prepared from 3-(1-methylimidazol-4-yl)prop-2-enoic acid ethyl ester by the method of intermediate A9.

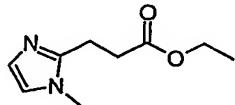
Intermediate A31 - 3-(1-Methylimidazol-4-yl)propan-1-ol

Prepared from intermediate A30 by the method of intermediate A18.

Intermediate A32 - 3-(1-Methylimidazol-4-yl)propionaldehyde

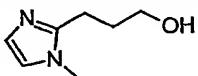
20

Prepared from intermediate A31 by the method of intermediate A19

Intermediate A33 - 3-(1-Methylimidazol-2-yl)propionic acid ethyl ester

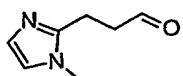
Prepared from 3-(1-methylimidazol-2-yl)prop-2-enoic acid ethyl ester by the method of intermediate A9.

Intermediate A34 - 3-(1-Methylimidazol-2-yl)propan-1-ol



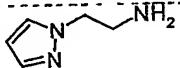
Prepared from intermediate A33 by the method of intermediate A18.

5 **Intermediate A35 - 3-(1-Methylimidazol-2-yl)propionaldehyde**



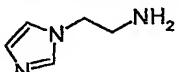
Prepared from intermediate A34 by the method of intermediate A19.

Intermediate A36 - 2-(Pyrazol-1-yl)ethylamine hydrobromide



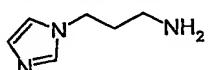
10 Prepared from pyrazole by the method of intermediate A6.

Intermediate A37 - 2-(Imidazol-1-yl)ethylamine hydrobromide



Prepared from imidazole by the method of intermediate A6.

Intermediate A38 - 3-(Imidazol-1-yl)propylamine hydrobromide



15 Prepared from imidazole by the method of intermediate A7.

The following amines were commercially available:

Intermediate A41 — 2-(Benzimidazol-2-yl)ethylamine

Intermediate A42 — 2-(5-Chlorobenzimidazol-2-yl)ethylamine

20 Intermediate A43 — Histamine

Intermediate A44 — 2-(Imidazol-2-yl)ethylamine

Intermediate A45 — 3-(Imidazol-1-yl)propylamine

Intermediate A46 — 2-(Pyrid-2-yl)ethylamine

Intermediate A47 — Pyrid-2-ylmethylamine

25 Intermediate A48 - 2-(1-Methylimidazol-5-yl)ethylamine

The following amine is known in the literature

Intermediate A49 - 2-(Thiazol-2-yl)ethylamine

The following intermediates were prepared from intermediate A1 by the method of Intermediate A4:

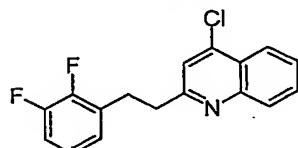
Int.	Precursor	Structure	Name
A50	A25		N-(2-(1-(2-methoxyethyl)imidazol-4-yl)ethyl)-4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-yl-methylamine
A51	A6		N-(2-(2-methylimidazol-1-yl)ethyl)-4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-yl-methylamine
A52	A36		N-(2-(pyrazol-1-yl)ethyl)-4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-yl-methylamine
A53	A48		N-(2-(1-methylimidazol-5-yl)ethyl)-4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-yl-methylamine
A54	A42		N-(2-(5-chlorobenzimidazol-2-yl)ethyl)-4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-yl-methylamine
A55	A41		N-(2-(benzimidazol-2-yl)ethyl)-4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-yl-methylamine
A56	A37		N-(2-(imidazol-1-yl)ethyl)-4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-yl-methylamine
A57	A44		N-(2-(imidazol-2-yl)ethyl)-4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-yl-methylamine
A58	A43		N-(2-(imidazol-4-yl)ethyl)-4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-yl-methylamine
A59	A46		N-(2-(pyrid-2-yl)ethyl)-4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-yl-methylamine
A60	A49		N-(2-(thiazol-2-yl)ethyl)-4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-yl-methylamine
A61	A38		N-(3-(imidazol-1-yl)propyl)-4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-yl-methylamine
A62	A47		N-(pyrid-2-ylmethyl)-4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-yl-methylamine
A63	A7		N-(3-(2-methylimidazol-1-yl)propyl)-4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-yl-methylamine

The following intermediates were prepared from intermediate A3 by the method of Intermediate A5:

Int.	Precursor	Structure	Name
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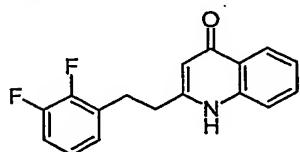
A65	A32		N-(3-(1-methylimidazol-4-yl)propyl)-4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-yl-methylamine
A66	A19		N-(3-(1-methylimidazol-5-yl)propyl)-4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-yl-methylamine
A67	A26		N-((1-methylimidazol-4-yl)methyl)-4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-yl-methylamine
A68	A37		N-(3-(1-methylimidazol-2-yl)propyl)-4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-yl-methylamine
A69	A27		N-(1-ethylimidazol-4-ylmethyl)-4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-yl-methylamine
A70	A28		N-(1-isopropylimidazol-4-ylmethyl)-4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-yl-methylamine
A71	A29		N-(1-(2-methoxyethyl)imidazol-4-ylmethyl)-4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-yl-methylamine

Intermediate B1 — 4-Chloro-2-(2-(2,3-difluorophenyl)ethyl)quinoline



Butyllithium (4.76ml, 2.5M in hexanes, 1 equiv) was added dropwise to a solution of 4-chloroquininaldine (2.4ml, 1 equiv) in tetrahydrofuran (30ml) at -78°C and the reaction mixture stirred for 15min. 2,3-Difluorobenzyl bromide (1.82ml, 1.2 equiv) was added dropwise and stirring was continued for 1h. After warming to room temperature the solution was diluted with water and ethyl acetate and the organic phase dried and evaporated. Chromatography (silica, 10:1 petrol / ethyl acetate) gave the title compound as a white solid (3.16g). ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ 3.23 (4H, m), 6.89-6.99 (3H, m), 7.33 (1H, s), 7.59 (1H, m), 7.74 (1H, m), 8.04 (1H, d), 8.15 (1H, d); MS (APCI+) found (M+1) = 304; C₁₇H₁₂³⁵ClF₂N requires 303.

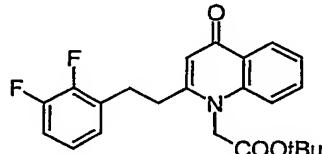
Intermediate B2 — 2-(2-(2,3-Difluorophenyl)ethyl)-1*H*-quinolin-4-one



4-Chloro-2-(2,3-difluorophenylethyl)quinoline (Int. B1) (2.83g) was heated to reflux in aqueous hydrochloric acid (2M, 15ml) and dioxane (6ml) for 72h. The reaction mixture was extracted with dichloromethane (90ml) and methanol (10ml), and the organic phase dried and evaporated to give the title compound as a white solid (2.61g). ¹H-NMR (d₆-DMSO) δ 3.15 (4H, s), 6.46 (1H, s), 7.15 (2H, m),

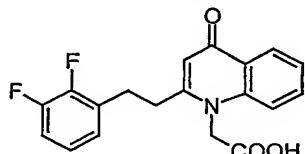
7.27 (1H, m), 7.51 (1H, m), 7.82 (2H, m), 8.15 (1H, d); MS (APCI+) found ($M+1$) = 286; $C_{17}H_{13}F_2NO$ requires 285.

Intermediate B3 — *Tert* butyl [2-(2,3-difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-oxo-4*H*-quinolin-1-yl]acetate



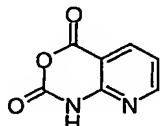
5 To a slurry of 2-(2,3-difluorophenyl)ethyl)-1*H*-quinolin-4-one (Int. B2) (33g) in dry THF (500ml) at 0°C under argon was added dropwise *n*-butyl lithium (2.5M in hexanes) (47ml). The solid dissolved during the addition. The mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred at this temperature for 0.5h. *Tert*. butyl bromoacetate (28ml) was added and the mixture heated at 40°C for 48h. The mixture was cooled to room temperature and poured into saturated ammonium chloride and extracted with dichloromethane (x3). The combined extracts were washed with brine, dried over magnesium sulphate and evaporated under reduced pressure to give a brown solid. Trituration of this material with hexane and then diethyl ether gave the title compound (35.7g). 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ 1.46 (9H, s), 2.85-3.15 (4H, m), 4.83 (2H, s), 6.25 (1H, s), 6.8-7.2 (3H, m), 7.2-7.45 (2H, m), 7.6-7.7 (1H, m), 8.4-8.5 (1H, m).

15 **Intermediate B4 — [2-(2,3-Difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-oxo-4*H*-quinolin-1-yl]acetic acid**

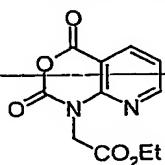


To a solution of *tert* butyl [2-(2,3-difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-oxo-4*H*-quinolin-1-yl]acetate (Int. B3) (35g) in dry dichloromethane (300ml) was added trifluoroacetic acid (50ml) and the solution left for 68h. The mixture was evaporated under reduced pressure to give an oily gum which was triturated with diethyl ether. The solid so formed was washed with water and dried under vacuum. This gave the desired material (30g). 1H -NMR (d_6 -DMSO) δ 2.8–3.2 (4H, m), 5.24 (2H, s), 6.19 (1H, s), 7.05-7.4 (3H, m), 7.4-7.55 (1H, m), 7.55-7.9 (2H, m), 8.15-8.3 (1H, m)

Intermediate C1 — 3-Azaisatoic anhydride



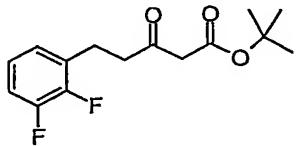
25 To a stirring solution of 2,3-pyridinedicarboxylic anhydride (100g, 1 equiv) in anhydrous tetrahydrofuran (1L) was added dropwise under argon at 38–46°C over 1.25h azidotrimethylsilane (97.9 ml, 1.1 equiv). The temperature was maintained at 45–50°C for a further 2h then the mixture refluxed for 30 min, cooled to ambient temperature and ethanol (43 ml, 1.1 equiv) added dropwise. On stirring for 16h an off-white solid was obtained which was filtered, washed and dried, to give the title compound (90.7g). 1H -NMR (d_6 -DMSO) δ 7.25-7.35 (1H, m), 8.30-8.35 (1H, dd), 8.65-8.7 (1H, dd), 11.3 (1H, br s).

Intermediate C2 — Ethyl (2,4-dioxo-4*H*-pyrido[2,3-*d*][1,3]oxazin-1-yl)acetate

A 2:1 mixture of 3- and 6-azaisatoic anhydride (3.55 g, 21.6 mmol) (*Synthesis* 1982, 11, 972) was added portionwise to a suspension of sodium hydride (0.95 g, 60% in oil, 23.8 mmol) in DMF (40 ml). After stirring for 1h, ethyl bromoacetate (2.64 ml, 23.8 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred overnight. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure. Ice/water was added to the residue and stirred for 1h. The resulting pink solid was collected by filtration, washed with water and dried under vacuum at 40°C. The product was a 4:1 mixture of the [2,3-*d*] and the [3,2-*d*] isomers. ¹H-NMR data of the title compound. ¹H-NMR (d₆-DMSO) δ 1.21 (3H,t), 4.18 (2H,q), 4.92 (2H,s), 7.45 (1H,dd), 8.47 (1H,dd), 8.77 (1H,dd); MS (APCI+) found (M+1) = 251; C₁₁H₁₀N₂O₅ requires 250.

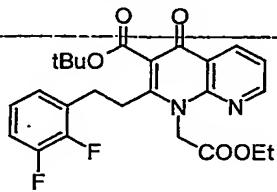
The title compound could also be prepared by the following method:

To a stirring mixture of 3-azaisatoic anhydride (Int. C1) (84.36g, 1 equiv) and N,N-diisopropyl-ethylamine (94 ml, 1.05 equiv) in N-methylpyrrolidone (420 ml) was added dropwise under argon at 45-50°C, ethyl bromoacetate (57 ml, 1 equiv). After 16h at 50°C the mixture was cooled (ice bath) and water (560 ml) added with vigorous stirring. The solid which precipitated was filtered, washed with water and partitioned between ethyl acetate and saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate. An insoluble solid was filtered off and discarded and the ethyl acetate layer washed again with saturated sodium bicarbonate, dried (Na₂SO₄) and evaporated. The residue was triturated with a 1:1 mixture of ether / light petrol, filtered, washed and dried to give the title compound as an off-white solid, yield (56.0g).

Intermediate C3 — 5-(2,3-Difluorophenyl)-3-oxopentanoic acid *tert*-butyl ester

To an ice cooled stirring suspension of sodium hydride (1.96 g, 49.1 mmol, 60% dispersion in oil) in dry tetrahydrofuran (100 ml) was added dropwise under an argon atmosphere *tert*-butylacetooacetate (7.4 ml, 44.6 mmol). After a further 15 min, *n*-butyllithium(18.7 ml, 46.8 mmol, 2.5M in hexanes) was added dropwise maintaining the reaction temperature below 10°C. 2,3-Difluorobenzyl bromide (11.08 g, 53.5 mmol) was added dropwise 20 min later, then the mixture allowed to warm to ambient temperature. After a further 15 min the reaction mixture was poured onto a mixture of water (150 ml) and glacial acetic acid (10 ml), extracted 3 times with ethyl acetate and the combined extracts washed with saturated sodium hydrogen carbonate then brine, dried (MgSO₄) and evaporated to a yellow oil. Chromatography (fine silica, ethyl acetate-light petrol) gave the title compound as a yellow oil, yield 9.05 g (71%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.45 (9H, s), 2.84-2.91 (2H, m), 2.95-3.00 (2H, m), 3.35 (2H, s), 6.92-7.04 (3H, m).

Intermediate C4 — (3-*tert*-Butoxycarbonylmethyl-2-[2-(2,3-difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-oxo-4*H*-[1,8]naphthyridin-1-yl)acetic acid ethyl ester

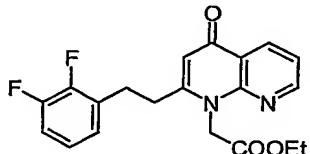


To a stirring suspension of sodium hydride (562 mg, 14.06 mmol, 60% dispersion in oil) in dry DMF (50 ml) was added dropwise 5-(2,3-difluorophenyl)-3-oxopentanoic acid *tert*-butyl ester (Int. C3) (3.63 g, 12.78 mmol). After 10 min, ethyl (2,4-dioxo-4*H*-pyrido[2,3-*d*][1,3]oxazin-1-yl)acetate (Int. C2) (3.21 g, 12.78 mmol) was added and the mixture stirred for 16h. The solvent was evaporated and the residue treated with saturated aq. ammonium chloride and extracted 3 times with ethyl acetate. The combined extracts were washed with brine, dried (MgSO_4) and concentrated. Chromatography (fine silica, ethyl acetate-light petrol) gave the title compound as a light brown solid, yield 1.88g (31%). ^1H NMR (d₆-DMSO) δ 1.31 (3H, t), 1.63 (9H, s), 2.95-3.03 (2H, m), 3.08-3.13 (2H, m), 4.27 (2H, q), 5.31 (2H, s), 7.01-7.11 (3H, m), 7.35-7.38 (1H, m), 8.67-8.71 (2H, m).

The title compound was also made by the following method:

To an ice-cooled solution of intermediate C2 (55.9g, 1 equiv) and intermediate C3 (63.5 g, 1 equiv) in dichloromethane (700 ml) was added dropwise under argon over 45 min 1,8-diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene (40 ml, 1.2 equiv). After 1h the ice bath was removed and after a further 2.5h the mixture was washed with saturated aqueous ammonium chloride, dried (Na_2SO_4) and evaporated. The crude product was chromatographed (fine silica, ethyl acetate-dichloromethane) then triturated with light petrol to give the title compound (80.27g).

20 Intermediate C5 — (2-(2-(2,3-Difluorophenyl)ethyl)-4-oxo-4*H*-[1,8]naphthyridin-1-yl)acetic acid ethyl ester



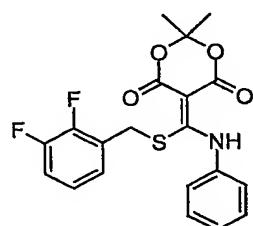
(3-*tert*-Butoxycarbonylmethyl-2-[2-(2,3-difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-oxo-4*H*-[1,8]naphthyridin-1-yl)acetic acid ethyl ester (Int C4) (1.35 g, 2.86 mmol) was added portionwise to boiling diphenyl ether (10 ml) with stirring. After 20 min, the dark solution was allowed to cool to ambient temperature. Petroleum ether (b.p. 60-80) was added to the point of cloudiness to give the product as a crystalline solid, yield 724 mg (68%). ^1H NMR (d₆-DMSO) δ 1.19 (3H, t), 3.02-3.09 (4H, m), 4.16 (2H, q), 5.31 (2H, s), 6.10 (1H, s), 7.13-7.21 (2 H, m), 7.26-7.33 (1H, m), 7.46-7.49 (1H, m), 8.49 (1H, m), 8.76 (1H, m). MS (APCI+), found ($M+1$) = 373, $C_{20}\text{H}_{18}\text{F}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$ requires 372.

30 The following intermediates were prepared by the method of Intermediate D4:

No.	Precursor	Structure	Name
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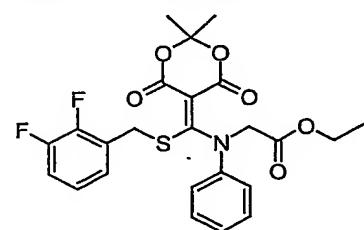
C6	C5		(2-[2-(2,3-difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-oxo-4H-[1,8]naphthyridin-1-yl)acetic acid
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Intermediate D1 — 5-(1-(2,3-Difluorobenzylthio)-1-phenylaminomethylene)-2,2-dimethyl-[1,3]dioxane-4,6-dione



To hexane washed sodium hydride (7.45g, 60% in oil) under argon, was added N-methylpyrrolidone (NMP) (270ml) and the mixture cooled in an ice-salt bath. 2,2-Dimethyl-1,3-dioxane-4,6-dione (26.8g) was added portionwise over 20min keeping the temperature between 5-10°C. Effervescence was noted during the addition. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1h and phenylisothiocyanate (25.2g) added over 15min. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2.5h and cooled to 15°C in a cold water bath. 2,3-Difluorobenzyl bromide (38.6g) was added over 10min and stirred at room temperature overnight. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue partitioned between ethyl acetate (1.2L) and water. The organic layer was washed with further water and then brine and dried over MgSO₄. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue triturated with 40-60°C petrol and the solid collected by filtration. Crystallisation from methyl t.butyl ether gave the title compound as a pale yellow solid (51.4g). ¹H-NMR (d₆-DMSO) δ 1.64 (6H, s), 4.16 (2H, d), 7.1-7.25 (2H, m), 7.25-7.5 (6H, m), 12.12 (1H, br s); MS (APCI-) found (M-1) = 404; C₂₀H₁₇F₂NO₄S requires 405.

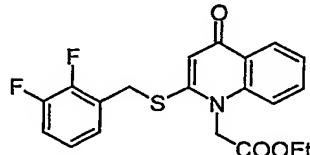
Intermediate D2 — Ethyl 2-(1-(2,3-difluorobenzylthio)-1-(2,2-dimethyl-4,6-dioxo-[1,3]dioxan-5-ylidene)-methyl)phenylamino)acetate



To hexane washed sodium hydride (1.0g, 60% in oil) under argon, was added NMP (30ml). A solution of 5-(1-(2,3-difluorobenzylthio)-1-phenylaminomethylene)-2,2-dimethyl-[1,3]dioxane-4,6-dione (10.0g) (intermediate D1) in NMP (20ml) was added by syringe over 15min at room temperature and stirred for 30min. Ethyl bromoacetate (4.5g) was added and the mixture heated at 60°C for 6h. The mixture was partitioned between ethyl acetate and water and the aqueous layer extracted with further ethyl acetate. The combined organic layers were washed with further water and brine, dried over MgSO₄, and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The orange oil so obtained was triturated with diethyl ether/40-60°C petrol to give a solid that was collected by filtration. This solid was recrystallised from methyl

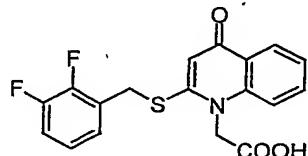
t-butyl ether to give the title compound (7.37g). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (d_6 -DMSO) δ 1.24 (3H, t), 1.55 (6H, br s), 4.19 (2H, q), 4.37 (2H, d), 4.81 (2H, br s), 6.85-7.5 (8H, 2xm).

Intermediate D3 - Ethyl (2-(2,3-difluorobenzylthio)-4-oxo-4*H*-quinolin-1-yl)acetate



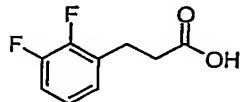
5 Ethyl (1-(2,3-difluorobenzylthio)-1-(2,2-dimethyl-4,6-dioxo-[1,3]dioxan-5-ylidene)methyl)phenyl-amino)acetate (intermediate D2) (0.85g) under argon was stirred with trifluoroacetic (10ml) at room temperature overnight. The mixture was evaporated under reduced pressure, dissolved in dichloromethane, washed with sodium bicarbonate solution and dried over Na_2SO_4 . The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue triturated with diethyl ether to give the title compound (0.43g). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ 1.27 (3H, t), 4.26 (2H, q), 4.29 (2H, s), 5.1 (2H, br s), 6.45 (1H, s), 6.95-7.25 (4H, m), 7.39 (1H, t), 7.64 (1H, dt), 8.42 (1H, dd); MS (APCI+) found ($M+1$) = 418; $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{21}\text{F}_2\text{NO}_3\text{S}$ requires 417.

Intermediate D4 — [2-(2,3-Difluorobenzylthio)-4-oxo-4*H*-quinolin-1-yl]acetic acid

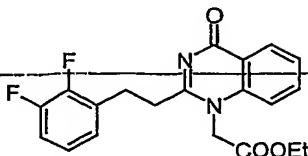


15 To a solution of Int. D3 (21.56g, 0.055mol) in dioxan (200ml) was added sodium hydroxide (6.0g, 0.15mol) in water (200ml) and the solution stirred for 2.5h then concentrated. The residues were dissolved in water and acidified to pH 2 with 2M hydrochloric acid and the precipitate collected and washed sequentially with water, ether and then hexane. The solids were dried *in vacuo* at 40°C to provide the title compound (20.0g, 100%). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (d_6 -DMSO) δ 4.5 (2H, s), 5.2 (2H, br s), 6.3 (1H, s), 7.18 (1H, m), 7.3 (1H, m), 7.4 (2H, m), 7.6 (1H, d, $J=8.5\text{Hz}$), 7.7 (1H, t, $J=8\text{Hz}$), 8.1 (1H, d, $J=8\text{Hz}$). MS (APCI+) found ($M+1$) = 362; $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{13}\text{F}_2\text{NO}_3\text{S}$ requires 361.

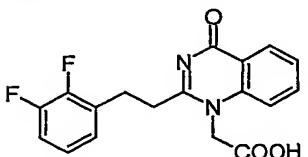
Intermediate E1 — 3-(2,3-Difluorophenyl)propionic acid



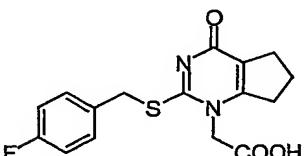
25 A solution of 2,3-difluorocinnamic acid (9.14g) in ethanol (250ml) with 10% palladium/carbon catalyst was hydrogenated for 5h at room temperature and atmospheric pressure. The reaction mixture was filtered through celite and concentrated *in vacuo* to give the title compound as a colourless solid (9.05g, quant.) $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ 2.70 (2H, t), 3.02 (2H, t) and 7.01 (3H, m).

Intermediate E2 — Ethyl 2-[2-(2,3-difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-oxo-4*H*-quinazolin-1-yl)acetate

To a solution of 3-(2,3-difluorophenyl)propionic acid (Int. E1) (5g, 26.88mmol) in anhydrous dichloromethane (50ml) containing a few drops of DMF was added oxalyl chloride (4.7ml, 53.84mmol) at 0°C under argon. The solution was then stirred at ambient temperature for 2h and the solvent removed *in vacuo*. The residue which contained the acid chloride was dissolved in toluene (50ml) and added to a slurry of (2-carbamoylphenylamino)acetic acid ethyl ester (5.0g, 22.52mmol) in toluene (50ml) containing pyridine (1ml) and 4-dimethylaminopyridine (DMAP) (100mg). After 16h at 90°C the solvent was evaporated and the solid residue washed with water, aqueous ammonia and ether to give the title compound (6.9g, 82%) as a cream solid. ¹H-NMR (DMSO) δ 1.24 (3H, t), 3.13 (2H, t), 3.34 (2H, m), 4.24 (2H, q), 5.48 (2H, s), 7.19 (1H, m), 7.29-7.35 (2H, m), 7.60-7.72 (2H, m), 7.94 (1H, t), 8.19 (1H, d); MS (APCI+) found (M+1) = 373; C₂₀H₁₈F₂N₂O₃ requires 372.

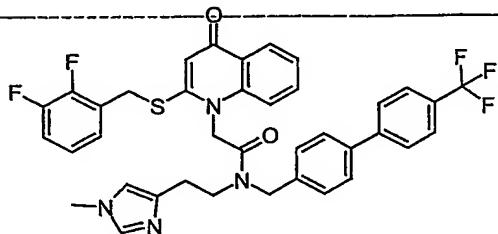
Intermediate E3 — 2-(2-(2,3-Difluorophenyl)ethyl)-4-oxo-4*H*-quinazolin-1-yl)acetic acid

A solution of ethyl 2-(2-(2,3-difluorophenyl)ethyl)-4-oxo-4*H*-quinazolin-1-yl)-acetate (Int. E2) (6.8g, 18.3mmol) in methanol (30ml) and 2M sodium hydroxide solution (18.0ml, 36mmol) was stirred at ambient temperature overnight. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the residue dissolved in water (10ml). Acidification to pH 1 with 2M hydrochloric acid gave a solid that was filtered, washed with water and dried *in vacuo* to give the desired product (5.9g, 94%) as a white solid. ¹H-NMR (DMSO) δ 3.11-3.30 (4H, m), 5.31 (2H, s), 7.16-7.33 (3H, m), 7.61 (1H, t), 7.68 (1H,d), 7.89 (1H,t), 8.18 (1H,d); MS (APCI+) found (M+1) = 345; C₁₈H₁₄F₂N₂O₃ requires 344.

Intermediate F1 — 2-[2-(4-Fluorobenzylthio)- 5,6-trimethylene-4-oxo-4*H*-pyrimidin-1-yl]acetic acid

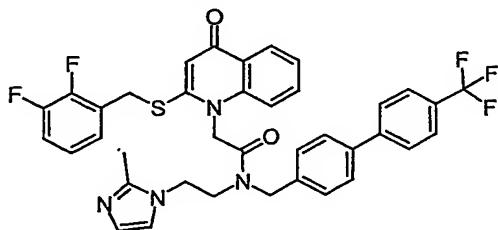
The preparation of this intermediate was described in International Application WO 01/60805 A1.

Example 1 — N-(2-(1-Methylimidazol-4-yl)ethyl)-2-[2-(2,3-difluorobenzylthio)-4-oxo-4H-quinolin-1-yl]-N-(4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethyl)acetamide bitartrate



A mixture of 2-(2,3-difluorobenzylthio)-4-oxo-4H-quinolin-1-yl)acetic acid (Int. D4) (0.101g), *N*(2-(1-methylimidazol-4-yl)ethyl)-4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethylamine (Int. A4) (0.10g,), O-(7-azabenzotriazol-1-yl)-N,N,N',N'-tetramethyluronium hexafluorophosphate (HATU) (0.103g) and N,N-diisopropylethylamine (0.12ml) in dimethylformamide (20 ml) was stirred at room temperature for 2h, diluted with dichloromethane and washed with saturated sodium bicarbonate and water. The organic layer was dried (anhydrous potassium carbonate) and evaporated under reduced pressure to give the free base of the title compound. ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ 2.85-3.0 (2H, m), 3.58 ± 3.63 (3H, 2xs), 3.75-3.95 (2H, m), 4.22 + 4.24 (2H, 2xs), 4.6-4.8 (2H, br.s), 5.12 + 5.28 (2H, br.s), 6.40 (1H, s), 6.65 + 6.69 (1H, 2xs), 6.80 + 6.83 (1H, 2xs), 6.9-7.2 (3H, m), 7.2-7.8 (11H, m), 8.3-8.45 (1H, m); MS (APCI+) found (M+1) = 703; C₃₈H₃₁F₅N₄O₂S requires 702. The residue was chromatographed on silica gel using , 5% 2M ammonia in methanol:dichloromethane to give a material which was dissolved in methanol and tartaric acid (0.033g) was added. The mixture was stirred for 0.17h and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The residue was triturated with diethyl ether to give the desired product (0.15g). ¹H-NMR (DMSO) δ 2.7-2.95 (2H, m), 3.58 + 3.60 (3H, 2xs), 3.65-3.8 (2H, m), 4.29 (2H, s), 4.45-4.9 (4H, m), 5.25-5.5 (2H, m), 6.22 + 6.27 (1H, 2xs), 6.91 + 6.93 (1H, 2xbr.s), 7.05-7.5 (7H, m), 7.55-7.75 (4H, m), 7.75-7.95 (4H, m), 8.12 + 8.15 (1H, dd); MS (APCI+) found (M+1) = 703; C₃₈H₃₁F₅N₄O₂S requires 702.

Example 2 — N-(2-(2-Methylimidazol-1-yl)ethyl)-2-[2-(2,3-difluorobenzylthio)-4-oxo-4H-quinolin-1-yl]-N-(4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethyl)acetamide



A mixture of 2-(2,3-difluorobenzylthio)-4-oxo-4H-quinolin-1-yl)acetic acid (Int. D4) (0.483g), *N*(2-(2-methylimidazol-1-yl)ethyl)-4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethylamine (Int. A6) (0.40g,), O-(7-azabenzotriazol-1-yl)-N,N,N',N'-tetramethyluronium hexafluorophosphate (HATU) (0.48g) and N,N-diisopropylethylamine (0.543ml) in dimethylformamide (10 ml) was stirred at room temperature for 2h. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue partitioned between ethyl acetate and water. The water layer was extracted with further ethyl acetate and the combined organic layers washed with 2M sodium hydroxide and brine. The solution was dried over sodium sulphate, evaporated under reduced pressure, chromatographed on silica gel using 5-15% 2M ammonia in methanol:ethyl acetate, then 2-10% methanol:methylene chloride and triturated with a mixture of ethyl acetate and light petrol to give the desired product (0.32g). ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ 2.37 + 2.43 (3H, m), 3.65-3.85 (2H, m), 4.14 (2H,

t), 4.2-4.35 (4H, m), 4.55-5.3 (2H, br.), 6.43 + 6.48 (1H, 2xs), 6.7-7.2 (6H, 2xs), 7.2-7.4 (3H, 2xs), 7.5-7.8 (7H, m), 8.3-8.45 (1H, m); LC/MS (LC conditions: 3.3cm x 4.6mm ID, 3 μ M ABZ+PLUS column using a gradient system 0.1%formic acid in 10mM ammonium acetate:95% acetonitrile with 0.05% formic acid, flow rate 3ml/min, injection volume 5 μ l), (ESI+) found (M+1) 703; C₃₈H₃₁F₅N₄O₂S requires 5 702. LC/MS purity = 100%.

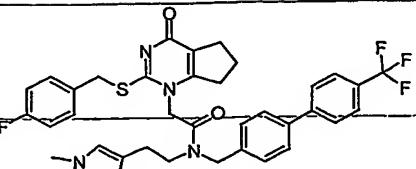
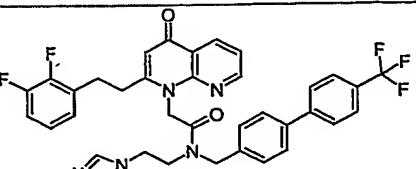
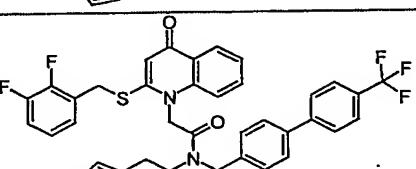
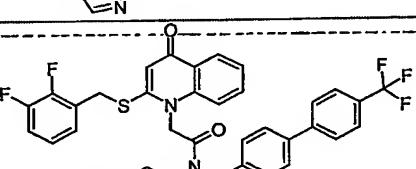
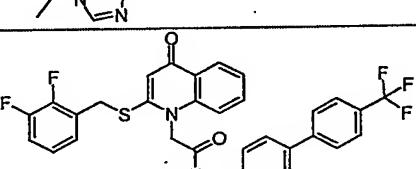
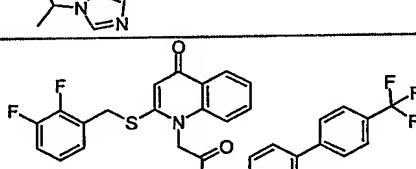
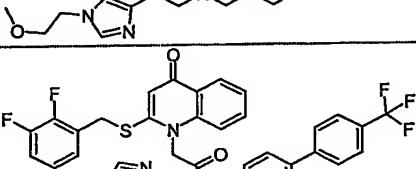
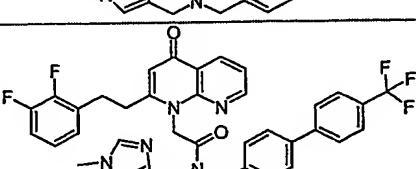
The following Examples were made by the general method of Examples 1 and/or 2:

Ex. No.	Precursors	Structure	Name
3	Int. A55 Int. D4		N-(2-(benzimidazol-2-yl)ethyl)-2-[2-(2,3-difluorobenzylthio)-4-oxo-4H-quinolin-1-yl]-N-(4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethyl)acetamide bitartrate
4	Int. A55 Int. B4		N-(2-(benzimidazol-2-yl)ethyl)-2-[2-(2-(2,3-difluorophenyl)ethyl)-4-oxo-4H-quinolin-1-yl]-N-(4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethyl)acetamide bitartrate
5	Int. A54 Int. D4		N-(2-(5-chlorobenzimidazol-2-yl)ethyl)-2-[2-(2,3-difluorobenzylthio)-4-oxo-4H-quinolin-1-yl]-N-(4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethyl)acetamide bitartrate
6	Int. A54 Int. B4		N-(2-(5-chlorobenzimidazol-2-yl)ethyl)-2-[2-(2-(2,3-difluorophenyl)ethyl)-4-oxo-4H-quinolin-1-yl]-N-(4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethyl)acetamide bitartrate
7	Int. A57 Int. D4		N-(2-(imidazol-2-yl)ethyl)-2-[2-(2,3-difluorobenzylthio)-4-oxo-4H-quinolin-1-yl]-N-(4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethyl)acetamide bitartrate
8	Int. A57 Int. B4		N-(2-(imidazol-2-yl)ethyl)-2-[2-(2-(2,3-difluorophenyl)ethyl)-4-oxo-4H-quinolin-1-yl]-N-(4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethyl)acetamide bitartrate

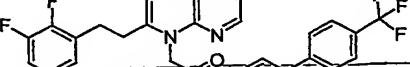
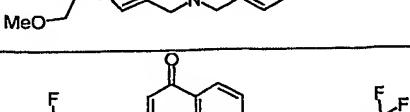
9	Int. A56 Int. D4		N-(2-(imidazol-1-yl)ethyl)-2-[2-(2,3-difluorobenzylthio)-4-oxo-4H-quinolin-1-yl]-N-(4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethyl)acetamide
10	Int. A61 Int. D4		N-(3-(imidazol-1-yl)propyl)-2-[2-(2,3-difluorobenzylthio)-4-oxo-4H-quinolin-1-yl]-N-(4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethyl)acetamide
11	Int. A61 Int. C6		N-(3-(imidazol-1-yl)propyl)-2-[2-(2-(2,3-difluorophenyl)ethyl)-4-oxo-4H-[1,8]naphthyridin-1-yl]-N-(4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethyl)acetamide
12	Int. A5 Int. D4		N-(1-methylimidazol-2-ylmethyl)-2-[2-(2,3-difluorobenzylthio)-4-oxo-4H-quinolin-1-yl]-N-(4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethyl)acetamide
13	Int. A5 Int. C6		N-(1-methylimidazol-2-ylmethyl)-2-[2-(2-(2,3-difluorophenyl)ethyl)-4-oxo-4H-[1,8]naphthyridin-1-yl]-N-(4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethyl)acetamide
14	Int. A4 Int. B4		N-(2-(1-methylimidazol-4-yl)ethyl)-2-[2-(2-(2,3-difluorophenyl)ethyl)-4-oxo-4H-quinolin-1-yl]-N-(4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethyl)acetamide bitartrate
15	Int. A53 Int. C6		N-(2-(1-methylimidazol-5-yl)ethyl)-2-[2-(2-(2,3-difluorophenyl)ethyl)-4-oxo-4H-[1,8]naphthyridin-1-yl]-N-(4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethyl)acetamide
16	Int. A68 Int. D4		N-(3-(1-methylimidazol-2-yl)propyl)-2-[2-(2,3-difluorobenzylthio)-4-oxo-4H-quinolin-1-yl]-N-(4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethyl)acetamide

17	Int. A63 Int. D4		N-(3-(2-methylimidazol-1-yl)propyl)-2-[2-(2,3-difluorobenzylthio)-4-oxo-4H-quinolin-1-yl]-N-(4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethyl)acetamide
18	Int. A65 Int. D4		N-(3-(1-methylimidazol-4-yl)propyl)-2-[2-(2,3-difluorobenzylthio)-4-oxo-4H-quinolin-1-yl]-N-(4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethyl)acetamide
19	Int. A65 Int. C6		N-(3-(1-methylimidazol-4-yl)propyl)-2-[2-(2-(2,3-difluorophenyl)ethyl)-4-oxo-4H-quinolin-1-yl]-N-(4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethyl)acetamide
20	Int. A60 Int. D4		N-(2-(thiazol-2-yl)ethyl)-2-[2-(2,3-difluorobenzylthio)-4-oxo-4H-quinolin-1-yl]-N-(4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethyl)acetamide
21	Int. A60 Int. C6		N-(2-(thiazol-2-yl)ethyl)-2-[2-(2-(2,3-difluorophenyl)ethyl)-4-oxo-4H-[1,8]naphthyridin-1-yl]-N-(4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethyl)acetamide
22	Int. A52 Int. D4		N-(2-(pyrazol-1-yl)ethyl)-2-[2-(2,3-difluorobenzylthio)-4-oxo-4H-quinolin-1-yl]-N-(4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethyl)acetamide
23	Int. A15 Int. D4		N-(2-(tetrazol-5-yl)ethyl)-2-[2-(2,3-difluorobenzylthio)-4-oxo-4H-quinolin-1-yl]-N-(4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethyl)acetamide
24	Int. A16 Int. D4		N-(tetrazol-5-ylmethyl)-2-[2-(2,3-difluorobenzylthio)-4-oxo-4H-quinolin-1-yl]-N-(4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethyl)acetamide

25	Int. A62 Int. D4		N-(pyrid-2-ylmethyl)-2-[2-(2,3-difluorobenzylthio)-4-oxo-4H-quinolin-1-yl]-N-(4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethyl)acetamide
26	Int. A62 Int. C6		N-(pyrid-2-ylmethyl)-2-[2-(2-(2,3-difluorophenyl)ethyl)-4-oxo-4H-[1,8]naphthyridin-1-yl]-N-(4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethyl)acetamide
27	Int. A59 Int. D4		N-(2-(pyrid-2-yl)ethyl)-2-[2-(2,3-difluorobenzylthio)-4-oxo-4H-quinolin-1-yl]-N-(4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethyl)acetamide bitartrate
28	Int. A59 Int. B4		N-(2-(pyrid-2-yl)ethyl)-2-[2-(2-(2,3-difluorophenyl)ethyl)-4-oxo-4H-quinolin-1-yl]-N-(4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethyl)acetamide bitartrate
29	Int. A10 Int. D4		N-(3-(pyrid-2-yl)propyl)-2-[2-(2,3-difluorobenzylthio)-4-oxo-4H-quinolin-1-yl]-N-(4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethyl)acetamide
30	Int. A10 Int. C6		N-(3-(pyrid-2-yl)propyl)-2-[2-(2-(2,3-difluorophenyl)ethyl)-4-oxo-4H-[1,8]naphthyridin-1-yl]-N-(4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethyl)acetamide
31	Int. A53 Int. D4		N-(2-(1-methylimidazol-5-yl)ethyl)-2-[2-(2,3-difluorobenzylthio)-4-oxo-4H-quinolin-1-yl]-N-(4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethyl)acetamide
32	Int. A4 Int. C6		N-(2-(1-methylimidazol-4-yl)ethyl)-2-[2-(2-(2,3-difluorophenyl)ethyl)-4-oxo-4H-[1,8]naphthyridin-1-yl]-N-(4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethyl)acetamide

33	Int. A4 Int. F1		N-(2-(1-methylimidazol-4-yl)ethyl)-2-[2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-5,6-trimethylene-4-oxo-4H-pyrimid-1-yl]-N-(4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethyl)acetamide
34	Int. A56 Int. C6		N-(2-(imidazol-1-yl)ethyl)-2-[2-(2,3-difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-oxo-4H-[1,8]naphthyridin-1-yl-N-(4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethyl)acetamide
35	Int. A58 Int. D4		N-(2-(imidazol-4-yl)ethyl)-2-[2-(2,3-difluorobenzylthio)-4-oxo-4H-quinolin-1-yl]-N-(4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethyl)acetamide
36	Int. A23 Int. D4		N-(2-(1-ethylimidazol-4-yl)ethyl)-2-[2-(2,3-difluorobenzylthio)-4-oxo-4H-quinolin-1-yl]-N-(4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethyl)acetamide
37	Int. A24 Int. D4		N-(2-(1-isopropylimidazol-4-yl)ethyl)-2-[2-(2,3-difluorobenzylthio)-4-oxo-4H-quinolin-1-yl]-N-(4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethyl)acetamide
38	Int. A25 Int. D4		N-(2-(1-(2-methoxyethyl)imidazol-4-yl)ethyl)-2-[2-(2,3-difluorobenzylthio)-4-oxo-4H-quinolin-1-yl]-N-(4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethyl)acetamide
39	Int. A67 Int. D4		N-((1-methylimidazol-4-yl)methyl)-2-[2-(2,3-difluorobenzylthio)-4-oxo-4H-quinolin-1-yl]-N-(4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethyl)acetamide
40	Int. A67 Int. C6		N-((1-methylimidazol-4-yl)methyl)-2-[2-(2,3-difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-oxo-4H-[1,8]naphthyridin-1-yl-N-(4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethyl)acetamide

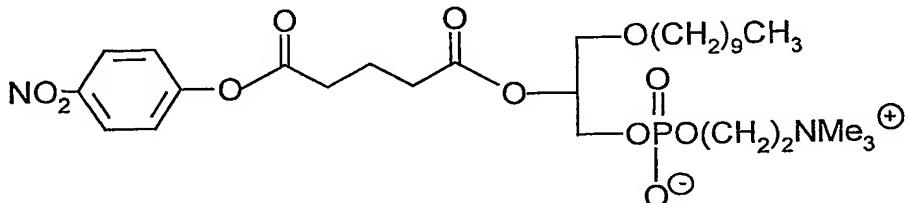
41	Int. A66 Int. C6		N-(3-(1-methylimidazol-5-yl)propyl)-2-[2-(2,3-difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-oxo-4H-[1,8]naphthyridin-1-yl]-N-(4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethyl)acetamide
42	Int. A66 Int. D4		N-(3-(1-methylimidazol-5-yl)propyl)-2-[2-(2,3-difluorobenzylthio)-4-oxo-4H-quinolin-1-yl]-N-(4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethyl)acetamide
43	Int. A4 Int. E3		N-(2-(1-methylimidazol-4-yl)ethyl)-2-[2-(2,3-difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-oxo-4H-quinazolin-1-yl]-N-(4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethyl)acetamide
44	Int. A69 Int. D4		N-((1-ethylimidazol-4-yl)methyl)-2-[2-(2,3-difluorobenzylthio)-4-oxo-4H-quinolin-1-yl]-N-(4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethyl)acetamide
45	Int. A69 Int. C6		N-((1-ethylimidazol-4-yl)methyl)-2-[2-(2,3-difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-oxo-4H-[1,8]naphthyridin-1-yl]-N-(4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethyl)acetamide
46	Int. A70 Int. D4		N-((1-isopropylimidazol-4-yl)methyl)-2-[2-(2,3-difluorobenzylthio)-4-oxo-4H-quinolin-1-yl]-N-(4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethyl)acetamide
47	Int. A70 Int. C6		N-((1-isopropylimidazol-4-yl)methyl)-2-[2-(2,3-difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-oxo-4H-[1,8]naphthyridin-1-yl]-N-(4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethyl)acetamide
48	Int. A71 Int. D4		N-((1-(2-methoxyethyl)imidazol-4-yl)methyl)-2-[2-(2,3-difluorobenzylthio)-4-oxo-4H-quinolin-1-yl]-N-(4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethyl)acetamide

49	Int. A71 Int. C6		N-((1-(2-methoxyethyl)imidazol-4-yl)methyl)-2-[2-(2-(2,3-difluorophenyl)ethyl)-4-oxo-4H-[1,8]naphthyridin-1-yl]-N-(4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethyl)acetamide
50	Int. A51 Int. D4		N-(2-(2-methylimidazol-1-yl)ethyl)-2-[2-(2,3-difluorobenzylthio)-4-oxo-4H-quinolin-1-yl]-N-(4'-trifluoromethylbiphen-4-ylmethyl)acetamide

Biological Data

5 1. Screen for Lp-PLA₂ inhibition.

Enzyme activity was determined by measuring the rate of turnover of the artificial substrate (A) at 37°C in 50mM HEPES (N-2-hydroxyethylpiperazine-N'-2-ethanesulphonic acid) buffer containing 150mM NaCl, pH 7.4.



(A)

Assays were performed in 96 well titre plates.

15 Recombinant LpPLA2 was purified to homogeneity from baculovirus infected Sf9 cells, using a zinc chelating column, blue sepharose affinity chromatography and an anion exchange column. Following purification and ultrafiltration, the enzyme was stored at 6mg/ml at 4°C. Assay plates of compound or vehicle plus buffer were set up using automated robotics to a volume of 170µl. The reaction was initiated by the addition of 20µl of 10x substrate (A) to give a final substrate concentration of 20µM and 10 µl of diluted enzyme to a final 0.2nM LpPLA2.

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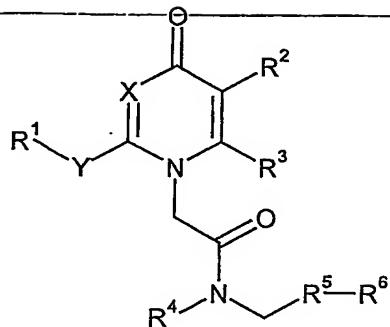
The reaction was followed at 405 nm and 37 °C for 20 minutes using a plate reader with automatic mixing. The rate of reaction was measured as the rate of change of absorbance.

Results

25 The compounds described in the Examples were tested as described above and had IC₅₀ values in the range <0.1 to 100 nM.

Claims

1. A compound of formula (I)



(I)

5

in which:

R¹ is an aryl group, optionally substituted by 1, 2, 3 or 4 substituents which may be the same or different selected from C(1-6)alkyl, C(1-6)alkoxy, C(1-6)alkylthio, arylC(1-6)alkoxy, hydroxy, halogen, CN, COR⁷, carboxy, COOR⁷, NR⁷COR⁸, CONR⁹R¹⁰, SO₂NR⁹R¹⁰, NR⁷SO₂R⁸, NR⁹R¹⁰, mono to

10 perfluoro-C(1-4)alkyl, mono to perfluoro-C(1-4)alkoxyaryl, and arylC(1-4)alkyl;

R² is halogen, C(1-3)alkyl, C(1-3)alkoxy, hydroxyC(1-3)alkyl, C(1-3)alkylthio,

C(1-3)alkylsulphanyl, aminoC(1-3)alkyl, mono- or di-C(1-3)alkylaminoC(1-3)alkyl,

C(1-3)alkylcarbonylaminoC(1-3)alkyl, C(1-3)alkoxyC(1-3)alkylcarbonylaminoC(1-3)alkyl,

C(1-3)alkylsulphonylaminoC(1-3)alkyl, C(1-3)alkylcarboxy, C(1-3)alkylcarboxyC(1-3)alkyl, and

15 R³ is hydrogen, halogen, C(1-3)alkyl, or hydroxyC(1-3)alkyl; or

R² and R³ together with the pyridone or pyrimidone ring carbon atoms to which they are attached form a fused 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic ring; or

R² and R³ together with the pyridone or pyrimidone ring carbon atoms to which they are attached form a fused benzo or heteroaryl ring optionally substituted by 1, 2, 3 or 4 substituents which

20 may be the same or different selected from halogen, C(1-4)alkyl, cyano, C(1-3)alkoxyC(1-3)alkyl, C(1-4)alkoxy or C(1-4)alkylthio, or mono to perfluoro-C(1-4)alkyl;

R⁴ is (CH₂)_n substituted by a substituent selected from benzimidazole or a 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl, each of which may optionally be substituted by one or more R¹¹;

25 R⁵ is an aryl or a heteroaryl ring optionally substituted by 1, 2, 3 or 4 substituents which may be the same or different selected from C(1-6)alkyl, C(1-6)alkoxy, C(1-6)alkylthio, arylC(1-6)alkoxy, hydroxy, halogen, CN, COR⁷, carboxy, COOR⁷, NR⁷COR⁸, CONR⁹R¹⁰, SO₂NR⁹R¹⁰, NR⁷SO₂R⁸, NR⁹R¹⁰, mono to perfluoro-C(1-4)alkyl and mono to perfluoro-C(1-4)alkoxy;

R⁶ is an aryl or a heteroaryl ring which is further optionally substituted by 1, 2, 3 or 4 substituents which may be the same or different selected from C(1-6)alkyl, C(1-6)alkoxy,

30 C(1-6)alkylthio, C(1-6)alkylsulfonyl, arylC(1-6)alkoxy, hydroxy, halogen, CN, COR⁷, carboxy, COOR⁷, CONR⁹R¹⁰, NR⁷COR⁸, SO₂NR⁹R¹⁰, NR⁷SO₂R⁸, NR⁹R¹⁰, mono to perfluoro-C(1-4)alkyl and mono to perfluoro-C(1-4)alkoxy, or C(5-10)alkyl;

R⁷ and R⁸ are independently hydrogen or C(1-12)alkyl, for instance C(1-4)alkyl (e.g. methyl or ethyl);

35 R⁹ and R¹⁰ which may be the same or different is each selected from hydrogen, or C(1-12)alkyl, or R⁹ and R¹⁰ together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a 5- to 7 membered ring optionally containing one or more further heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen and sulphur, and

optionally substituted by one or two substituents selected from hydroxy, oxo, C(1-4)alkyl, C(1-4)alkylcarboxy, aryl, e.g. phenyl, or aralkyl, e.g benzyl, for instance morpholine or piperazine;

R¹¹ is selected from the group consisting of halogen, CF₃, C(1-6)alkyl, C(1-6)alkoxy C(1-6)alkyl or benzyl optionally substituted by CF₃, C(1-6)alkyl, C(1-6)alkoxy or halogen;

5 X is CH or nitrogen;

Y is C(2-4)alkylene group (optionally substituted by 1, 2 or 3 substituents selected from methyl and ethyl), CH=CH, or (CH₂)_mS;

n is 1, 2, 3 or 4; and

m is 1 or 2.

10

2. A compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1 and as named in any of Examples 1 to 50.

3. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1 or 2 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

15

4. A compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1 or 2 for use in therapy.

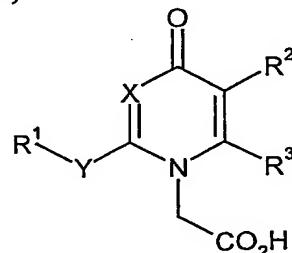
5. The use of a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1 or 2 for the manufacture of a medicament for treating atherosclerosis.

20

6. A method of treating a disease associated with activity of the enzyme Lp-PLA₂ which method involves treating a patient in need thereof with a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1 or 2.

25

7. A process for preparing a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1 or 2 which process comprises reacting an acid compound of formula (II):



(II)

in which X, Y, R¹, R² and R³ are as hereinbefore defined,

30 with an amine compound of formula (III):



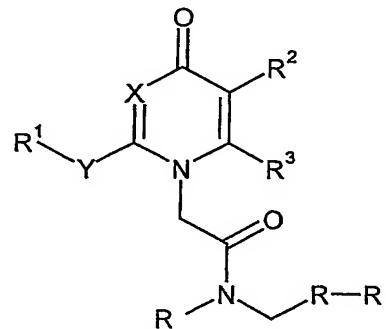
(III)

in which R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ are as hereinbefore defined; under amide forming conditions.

35

Abstract

Compounds of formula (I):



5

are inhibitors of the enzyme Lp-PLA₂ and are of use in therapy, in particular for treating atherosclerosis.

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